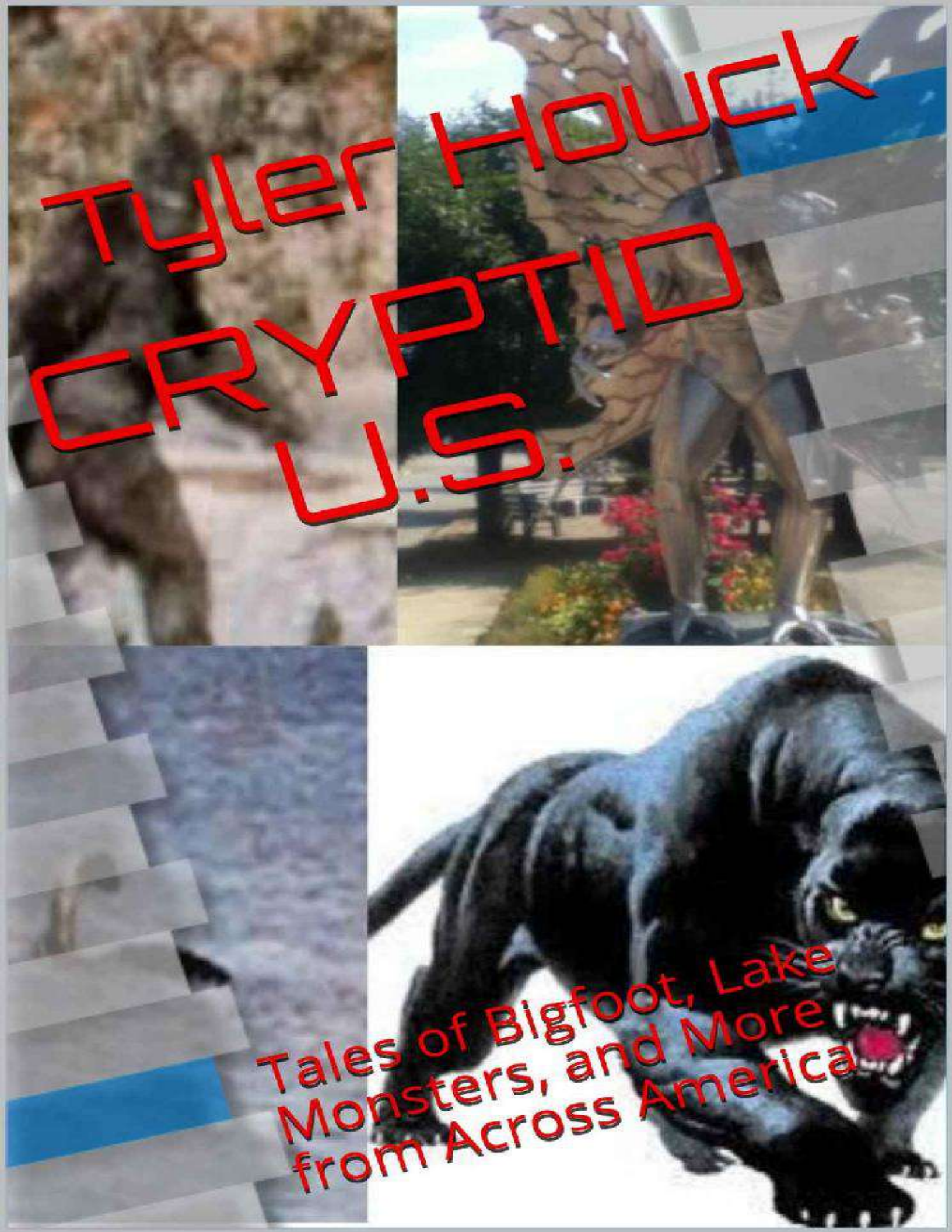
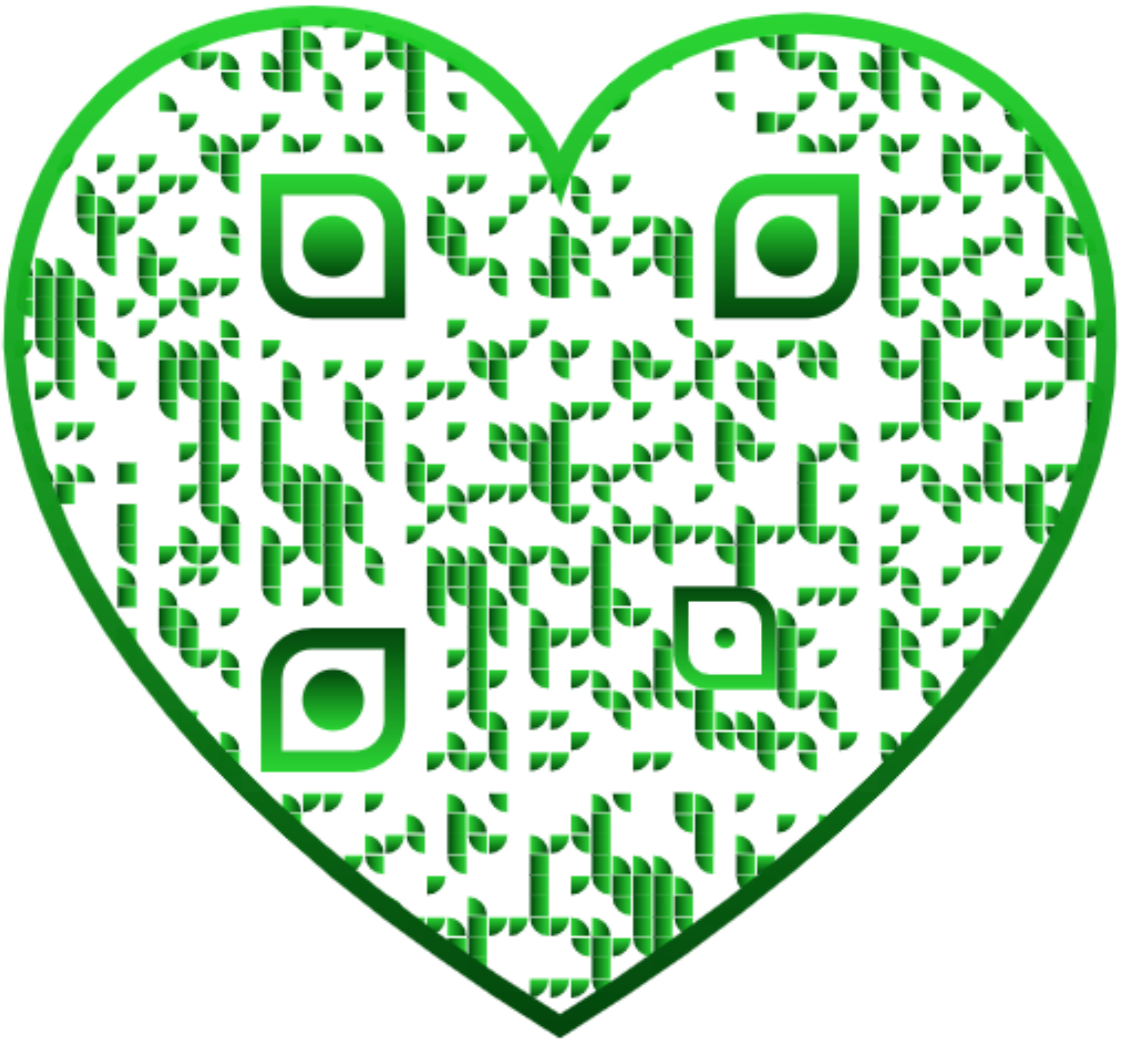

Tyler Houck
CRYPTID U.S.
Tales of Bigfoot, Lake Monsters, and More from Across America



Cryptid U.S.

Tales of Bigfoot, Lake Monsters, and More From Across America

Tyler Houck

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Introduction

Monsters have been with man since the beginning of time. Every culture has stories of some type of beast, be it a dragon, cyclops, or witch. No one today believes in things like that, but people still tell stories of strange, unknown creatures.

Almost everyone today has heard of at least one of these monsters. Ape like creatures are seen all over the world, and are called different names depending on where you go. In America(and in this book), they are called Bigfoot, Sasquatch, and many other names. In Australia there is the creature called the Yowie, Nepal has the Yeti, China has a wildman called the Yeren, Russia has the Alma or Almasti, Sumatra has the Orang Pendek, and so on.

Lake monsters are also seen all over the world. The most famous, by far, is the Loch Ness Monster, or Nessie, seen in Scotland. The first recorded sighting of the monster or monsters occurred in 565 A.D, and they have continued until the present day. Coming in a tie for second are Champ in Lake Champlain, which is located between New York and Vermont, and Ogopogo of Okanagan Lake, in Canada.

The United States has had more sightings of Cryptids(hidden or unknown animals) than anywhere else. Aquatic Monsters are seen in many lakes and rivers, huge ape men are said to live in the wilderness, giant, presumably extinct animals are seen flying in the skies, and a menagerie of other unknown beasties are seen all over the country.

The creatures in this book are from every corner of the great U.S.A, and range from Bigfoot, to Lizard Men, Werewolves, and Lake Monsters. Now you start your journey investigating all the unknowns of the U.S….

1 Bigfoot and Friends

The giant, hairy, ape-like creatures known as Bigfoot or Sasquatch have been seen all over the U.S. since the first people came to America. There seems to be several types(if not separate species) of these creatures across the country. For example, Bigfoots seen in the Eastern part of the country and in the south seem to be a bit smaller and more aggressive than those in the pacific northwest. The Fouke Monster, seen near Fouke, Arkansas, has been known to attack humans. Bigfoot on the western side of the country tend to be tall and shy. They try to hide as soon as they see they have been spotted.

The top state for sightings of Bigfoot or Bigfoot-like creatures is Washington. Number two on the list for the most sightings in California(The famous Patterson-Gimlin Bigfoot film was shot in this state) and number three is Oregon. The other two states on the top five list are states people don't often associate with Bigfoot. Number 4 is Ohio(where I live). The Ohio Bigfoot even has it's own nickname, the Grassman. Florida, in the number five spot, also has it's own Bigfoot called the Skunk Ape.

Those are the five best places to see Bigfoot, but there are some states where there have been very few sightings. Don't even bother trying to find evidence of a Bigfoot in Hawaii. They just aren't there. Delaware also has few sightings, along with Vermont, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, Nebraska, Kansas, and the Dakotas. But, always remember, just because there aren't many Bigfoot sightings in these states doesn't mean the creatures are not there (except for Hawaii).

The Pacific Northwest has more Bigfoot sightings than anywhere else, and that is where we will start our journey into the Cryptid U.S.

Bigfoot in the Pacific Northwest

The date was October 20, 1967. Roger Patterson and Bob Gimlin were in Bluff Creek, California, trying to find a Sasquatch. As they came to a dried up creek bed, they saw a strange creature. Patterson's horse reared, and fell backwards upon him. He quickly got up and pulled out his camera. He filmed

about a minute of footage of what some believe is a female Sasquatch.

A frame from Patterson's film

Many people consider Patterson's film the best piece of evidence for Bigfoot. But, many people will also say

" That's just a guy in a gorilla suit!" That would be true, but a suit of that quality would be very, very, very expensive in 1967, and the film has never been proven to be a hoax by scientists.

The first Sasquatch sighting by a European occurred around 1000 AD. It took place on the eastern side of North America, far away from the Pacific Northwest. Leif Erickson and his crew saw large, hairy, "wild men" when they got to America. According to Leif, the wild men "lived in the woods, had a rank odor, and a deafening shriek."

An early encounter in the Pacific Northwest took place in 1934. A prospector named Albert Ostman was camping near Toba Inlet, British Columbia. One night as he was sleeping, he said a Sasquatch grabbed him and carried him away from his campsite while in his sleeping bag. The Sasquatch carried him for three hours until it dropped him on a plateau. A family of four of the creatures surrounded him. He said there were three adults and a "child." They kept him in the area for six days.

Ostman said one of the creatures stood eight feet tall. He had his gun with him, but didn't shoot any of the creatures because they had done him no harm. He said the Sasquatch fed him a "sweet tasting grass" while he was

there. He said the female would collect leaves, wash them, and then stack them up.

After he had been held captive for almost a week, Ostman decided that it was time to try to escape. He gave the big male Sasquatch some of his snuff, and it made him groggy. It was then that Ostman escaped.

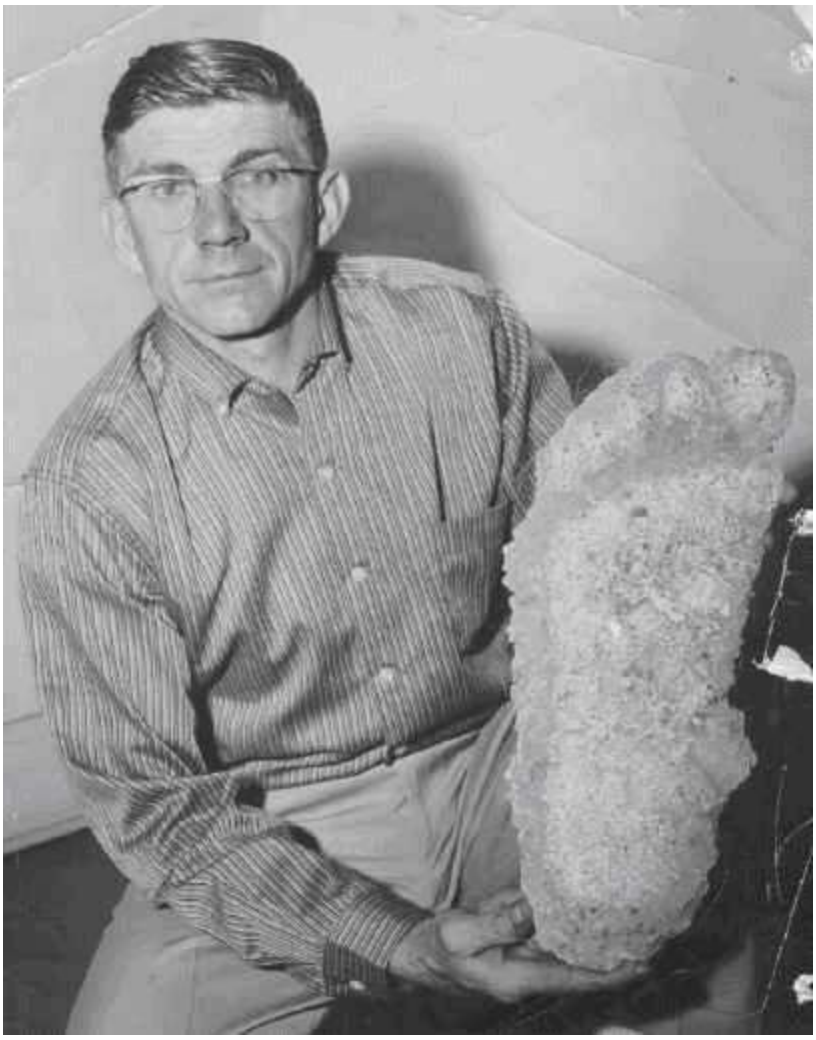
In 1957, over 24 years later, Ostman decided to tell his story because he had seen other stories in the paper. He didn't tell his story because he, like most witnesses, didn't want to be thought of as crazy.

Many Sasquatch researchers like John Green have cited this story as evidence of the creature's existence. Some researchers, however, do not believe his story. Bigfoot researcher Peter Byrne says "I will not accept Ostman's story without more evidence."

Another story, from 1955, describes William Roe's encounter. At first, he thought the creature he was seeing was a bear, but then realized it was something much different. He said it was six feet tall, three feet wide, and weighed approximately 300 pounds. It was covered with dark brown fur with silver tips. It was a female. However, he said "It's torso was not curved like a female's."

Another encounter occurred in 1940. The Chapman family said they were visited one day by an eight-foot tall Sasquatch. Mrs. Chapman and her children, who were at home when the creature appeared, fled. When her husband got home later, he found a heavy fish barrel overturned, and the contents were scattered all over the cabin. Huge footprints, 16 inches in length, and 8 inches wide, circled the house. The stride was four feet.

Another incident occurred the same year as Albert Ostman's kidnapping in 1924. Fred Beck said that he and four other miners were attacked in the middle of the night that July. Several "apemen" pelted their cabin with rocks and pounded on the sides of the cabin, trying to break in. Before the attack, Beck said they had shot and possibly killed one of the creatures, which could have caused the other's aggressive behavior. In 1967, Beck wrote a book about the experience. He argued that the creatures were



from another dimension (and some Bigfoot researchers think they are), and that he had seen them in psychic visions his whole life, along with other things. Speleologist William Halliday argued in 1983 that hikers from a nearby camp had thrown rocks and faked footprints. Others think that pranksters harassed the miners.

ABOVE: Jerry Crew and a Bigfoot Footprint

The name “Bigfoot” did not come around until 1958. A bulldozer operator named Jerry Crew (pictured above holding a footprint cast) found large, human-like footprints at the site where he worked. The crew working there was overseen by Wilbur Wallace, brother of Raymond Wallace. After Ray’s death, his children came forward and said that their father had made the footprints. However, whatever made them had enough strength to toss around giant fuel drums weighing a few hundred pounds.

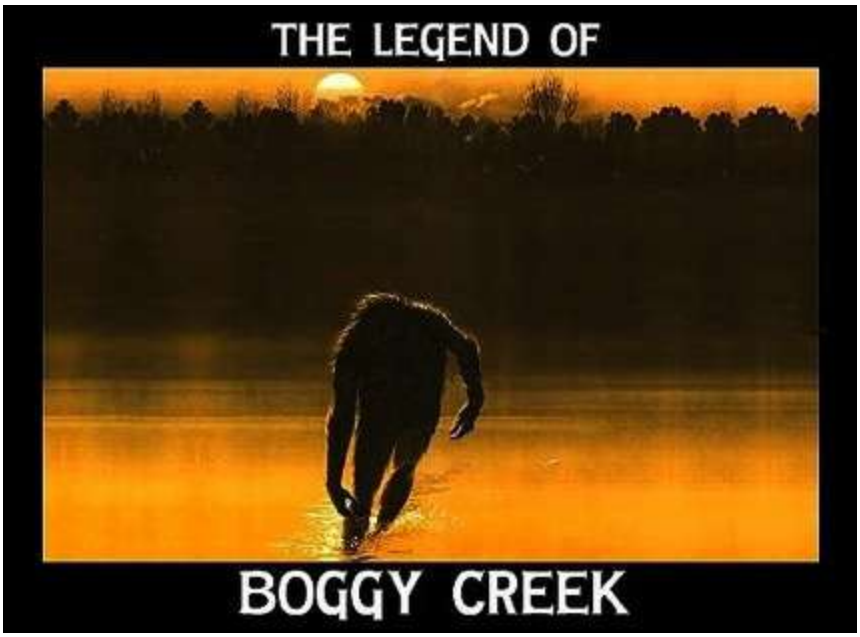
Bigfoot creatures are still seen all over the Pacific Northwest today. The states of California, Oregon, and Washington still have more Bigfoot encounters than anywhere else.

The Monster in Fouke

Lots of Bigfoot researchers say they became interested in the subject after they saw the 1972 movie *The Legend of Boggy Creek.* The movie, a sort of Docu-Drama, was about a creature called the Fouke Monster seen near the little town of Fouke, Arkansas. As the movie starts, you see swampy bottom lands and heard a strange cry. Then, you heard these lyrics:

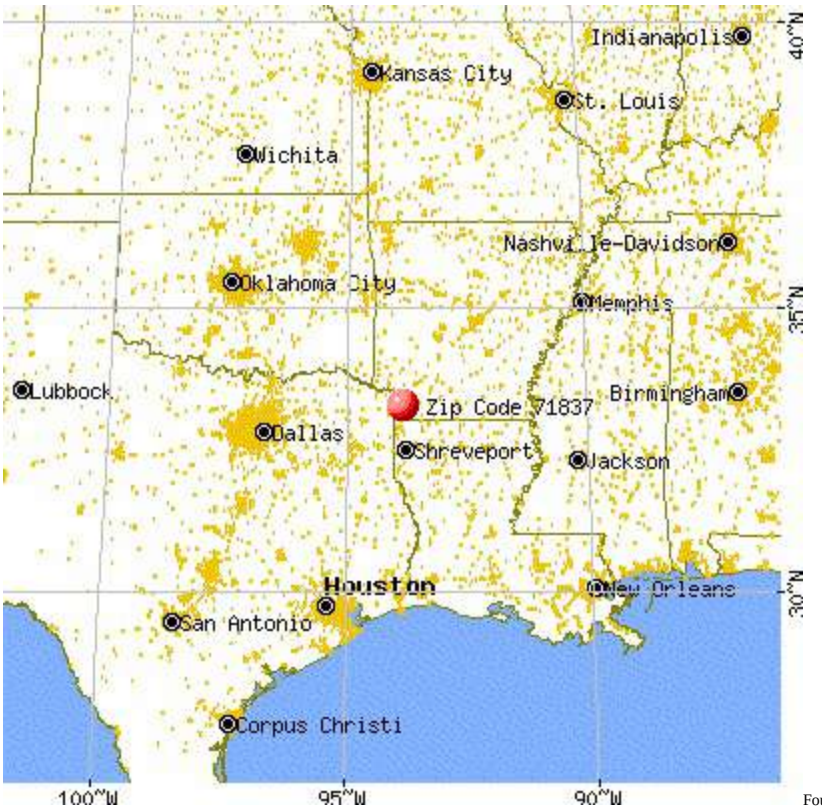
Here, the Sulfur River Flows,
Rising when the storm cloud blows,
This is where the creature goes,
Lurking in the land he knows.
Perhaps, he dimly wonders why,
Is there no other such as I?
To love, to touch before I die,
To listen to my lonely cry.

The song goes on for a few minutes while the camera shows scenes of the Sulfur River and swampy areas near Fouke. Many people may think the whole movie is fake, but most of the sightings of the giant, hairy monster in the movie actually happened.



The Fouke Monster, as it is called, was first seen when settlers arrived in the area. Sightings really took off in the 1900s, when people reported seeing the creature cross the road, seeing his footprints, running into him while hunting in the woods, and, in one case, being attacked.

In his book *Beginner's Guide to Bigfoot Research,* Joedy Cook describes Bigfoot creatures seen in the Texas/Arkansas area(where Fouke is located) as normally being described as "7 to 8 feet tall and weighing 300 to 500 pounds." This sounds like witnesses descriptions of the Fouke Monster. He also has Fouke in the number 7 spot in the country to look for Bigfoot creatures.



Fouke's Location on a map

On May 1, 1971, the monster supposedly attacked the home of Bobby and Elizabeth Ford. That encounter is one of the final scenes in *The Legend of Boggy Creek.*

The first reports of giant, hairy monsters, however, happened long before that. In 1541, Spaniards wrote of encounters with Native American tribes. They all had different stories of hairy wildmen. By the 1700s, the Native Americans were being pushed out of their homeland by settlers. By 1836, the population of Arkansas had reached 60,000. Reports of "wild man" sightings began appearing in newspapers. The first incident was reported by the *Arkansas Gazette* and the *Memphis Enquirer* on May 9, 1851. Two hunters near Greene County spotted a huge, hair covered creature trying to catch a calf in a herd of cattle. When the animal noticed the men, it stopped chasing the calf and just stared at them. Then, it suddenly turned and ran away. The men said the creature looked like a human, but "was of gigantic stature." The body was covered in hair and the head had "long locks that enveloped the neck and shoulders." The men also found 13-inch long, human-like footprints. The same article that reported that encounter also told of others. It went on to say:

“This singular creature has long been known traditionally in St. Francis Green and Poinsett counties, Arkansas sportsmen and hunters having described him so long as seventeen years since.”

The second report comes from 1856. Another “hairy wild man” was seen. The witnesses described the encounter this way:

“*He was a stout, athletic man about 6 feet 4 inches in height. He was completely covered with a brownish hair about 4 to 6 inches long. He was well muscled and ran with the fleetness of a deer.”*

The men wanted to capture the creature, alive. One approached it on horseback. When the “wildman” saw him, it “rushed towards him, and in an instant dragged the hunter to the ground. It tore him in “a most dreadful manner, scratching out one of his eyes and biting pieces out of his shoulder and other parts of his body.” The monster then tore off the saddle from the horse. Then, holding the horse by the mane, mounted the animal and rode off on it at full speed across the plains.”

Other, more well known sightings of the Fouke Monster occurred in the 1900s. J.E. “Smokey” Crabtree told stories of encounters that happened to his family. He talks about them in his book *Smokey and the Fouke Monster*. The first incident occurred when his son Lynn Crabtree was out hunting. He had a 20-gauge shotgun with him loaded with squirrel shot. That would do nothing to what he was about to see. While he was sitting in a tree waiting for any unlucky squirrels to come by, he heard horses running. They eventually went splashing into a lake. He didn’t think much of it at the time. The horses belonged to a neighbor who let them run loose, so it was nothing out of the ordinary.

Soon after, he heard a dog howling. He then got up and began to go towards the dog. As he got closer to the sound, he realized that the sound was not coming from a dog, but the huge creature that was standing right in front of him!

Lynn said the beast stood 7 to 8 feet tall and had reddish-brown hair that was about four inches long. It’s face was obscured by hair, so he could only see it’s nose. Lynn though it must be a man, so he raised his gun into the air and

fired off a shot. The creature did not react to it like a man would, however. Lynn then fired a shot right at the beast's
seemed

He then
parent's

head, but it totally
unaffected! fled to his house.

Lynn Crabtree sees the monster in *The Legend of Baggy Creek*

Smokey went out to the same spot where Lynn had seen the creature after he got back home. He found spots where the trees had been hit by gunshots, but found no shells laying on the ground. Puzzled, he returned home.

In a more recent sighting, from 2010, a married couple saw a tall, hairy, man-like creature run across the road near Fouke. It seems that the Fouke Monster still roams the Arkansas bottomlands.

White Bigfoot at Lake Worth, Texas

Another, possibly albino Bigfoot was seen near Lake Worth (near Fort Worth, Texas) in 1969. The creature was seen many times that summer and was called the Lake Worth Monster. The monster was also commonly called "the goatman." But, according to eyewitness accounts, it looked more like a hairy ape-man.

The only photo of the Lake Worth Monster

Charles Buchanan encountered the monster while camped out on the shores of Lake Worth on November 7, 1969. He said he awoke at two A.M. to find a strange creature face to face with him! He said "It looked like a cross between a human and a gorilla or some other kind of ape." He said the

creature pulled him out of the bed of his truck, where he had been sleeping, and threw him on the ground. The animal smelled horrible, and made Buchanan gag. To get it to go away, he did the only thing he could think of: he grabbed a bag of leftover chicken and shoved it into the creature's face. The creature then grabbed the chicken in it's mouth and the ran off into the trees and then into the lake. Buchanan said it then swam off towards Greer Island.

Many encounters had happened in the months before Buchanan's sighting. On July 10, four units of the Fort Worth police went to Greer Island to search for a beast that had attacked six people. One, John Reichart, said it had tried to grab his wife. He had an 18-inch long scratch mark on the side of his car to prove it. Soon after, 30 to 40 people, including police officers, went out to track the beast. They saw it at the top of an embankment. It howled at them, leaped off of the spot where it was originally standing, and then hurled an automobile tire at the terrified group! Everyone, including the police, jumped into their cars and left.

Most witnesses agreed that the monster was about 7 feet tall, and weighed about 300 pounds. In the months that followed the first sightings, parties of searchers and hunters made many nighttime hunts in the woods around the lake. They once found 16-inch long tracks. On one occasion, searchers actually saw it and chased its trail of footprints until it went into the lake. Three men said the creature had leaped on their car one night and only jumped off after they had crashed into a tree. Dead sheep were found in the area with broken necks. Some thought that the monster had killed them.

Allen Plaster was driving down the road one night when he saw the Lake Worth Monster. He managed to get one blurry picture of a tall, white, humanlike creature. That picture is on the previous page.

No one really knows what the Lake Worth Monster was. Some say it was a group of hoaxers trying to scare people. Hoaxers would have had to have been either very brave or very stupid to be walking around with so many people carrying guns, trying to find the creature and shoot it. Other people said it was a bobcat, but it would be hard for someone to mistake one of the felines for a seven-foot tall ape-man.

The Legend of the Ohio Grassman

Ohio is in the number four spot for most Bigfoot sightings. The only states ahead of it are California, Oregon, and Washington. The Ohio Bigfoot even has it's own nickname, the Grassman. The hotspot for Grassman sightings is Salt Fork State Park, home of the annual Ohio Bigfoot Conference.

The Ohio Grassman on *MonsterQuest*

The first account of a Grassman sighting appeared in a newspaper on January 23, 1869. The headline was titled "A Gorilla in Ohio." It told of a hairy creature that had attacked a man walking with his daughter. The man's daughter threw a stone at the creature as it wrestled with her father, and it ran away after the stone hit its ear.

Another, more recent sighting occurred in 1978. Evelyn and Howe Cayton said their grandchildren and some friends came into the house crying, saying they had seen a monster in a nearby gravel pit. Vicket Keck and the Caytons

went outside to see what had scared the kids. They saw a creature covered in dark, matted hair. They estimated its weight at about 300 pounds and said it was 7 feet tall. In Evelyn Cayton's words:

"It just stood there. It never moved, but I almost broke my neck running back down the hill."

The rest of the Minerva sightings started on August 21, 1978. Ron Schaffner, a Bigfoot researcher, chronicled the sightings. This is how it happened.

On August 21, at about 10:30 P.M., Evelyn Cayton's family and friends heard noises in the direction of an old chicken coop while sitting on the porch. They saw two pairs of yellow eyes reflecting in the porch light. Scott Patterson got up and turned on his car's headlights. There were two "cougar-like" felines standing by the chicken coop. Then, a large, bipedal creature stepped out in front of them, as if to protect them. The creature then lurched towards Patterson's car. Everyone ran into the house and someone called the Stark County Sheriff's Department. While they were waiting for the police to arrive, they saw the creature looking in the window. It stayed there for 10 minutes.

Patterson and Evelyn Cayton loaded guns, but did not shoot at the creature because it did not try to attack them. After a while, it suddenly left. Mary Ackerman said “It doesn’t seem to want to bother anyone. It was just curious. We felt like it wanted to be friends.”
About 5 minutes after the creature had left, the police arrived. A strong stench was still lingering in the area. They also discovered some unclear footprints. The creature was seen several times over the next couple of days.

One of the prominent Bigfoot researchers in Ohio is Joedy Cook. He has been studying Bigfoot since 1991 and has written books on the subject that include *Bigfoot Encounters in Ohio, Beginner’s Guide to Bigfoot Research,* and *Legend of the Grassman.* He has found several Grassman “nests.” He helped out the *MonsterQuest* team when they filmed

an episode in Ohio. He sent in a baboon skull he had found (*MonsterQuest* said no one knew what the skull was from because, you know, TV has to be interesting), and a possible Grassman handprint. Forensic Examiner Jimmy Chilcott examined the print and said it was either from a gorilla or a Bigfoot.

RIGHT: The handprint compared to a gorilla hand and a chimpanzee hand(courtesy of Joedy Cook)

PREVIOUS PAGE: A Grassman 'Nest'(Courtesy of Joedy Cook)

2005 was a good year for grassman sightings. Joedy Cook lists 8 reports from that year in his book *Legend of the Grassman: The Bigfoot of Salt Fork State Park.*

Another Grassman encounter occurred on July 2, 1984, when Lorena Cunningham saw a female Sasquatch watching her kids while they were playing on the playground. She said it was 7 ½ feet tall and she saw several expressions on its face. It never looked like it was angry, it seemed to like to watch the kids playing. “It was almost smiling.” Lorena said. The hair covering the creature was dark with red tips. Lorena called her kids over after a minute and they left.

Lorena didn’t know this, but that was only her first of three encounters with Bigfoot creatures. In 2004, she was at her father’s house and went out to shut the gate one cold winter night after her daughter and her fiance left. When she went out, she saw a tall, grey haired bigfoot walking along the fence line. She thought it might have been going to a barn on the property to get out of the cold. She said it was about 7 or 7 ½ feet tall like the other one she had seen 20 years earlier. When she yelled “Hey!”, the Bigfoot turned, looked at her, and walked back across the field and went into the woods.

Her third encounter occurred in a barn. Lorena went into the barn to feed the horses. Usually when she walked into the barn, about 30 cats came running for food. That day, no cats came. The horses would not come inside. She heard the boards of the hay loft above her creaking, and saw bits of straw falling through the cracks. She grabbed two pitchforks, because she knew it was a Bigfoot up there, even though she couldn’t see it. If it came down and attacked, she wasn’t going down without a fight, but, that didn’t happen. She walked out of the barn unharmed.

Lorena's stories have been investigated by Doug Waller, founder of the Southeastern Ohio Society for Bigfoot Investigations, or SOSBI for short, and author of *Standing in the Shadows: Bigfoot Stories from Southeastern Ohio.* He also helped the cast of *Finding Bigfoot* when they were filming the Ohio episode. Doug is currently working on a second book.

In April of 2014 I went to Salt Fork State Park for the 26th annual Ohio Bigfoot Conference. On the third day, I walked back to the Hosaks Cave area where there have been quite a few Bigfoot sightings. While walking near the cave, I found something odd and possibly Bigfoot related. I was up near the cave area (not right above the cave, because you can only get so close to it on the path because 4 people have fallen from the top of the cave and two of those four have died!

As I was walking, I noticed a tree that was upside down. The tree had its root up in the air and was angled off of the "cliff"(for lack of a better word.) I took a picture and checked the surrounding area. I saw a big hole in the ground where the tree may have originally stood, but found

no Bigfoot footprints. I did not go down to the area where the top of the tree was to see if it was lodged into the ground, and now I wish I had. Did I find evidence that the Ohio Grassman had been there? Maybe. But, then again, maybe not.

LEFT: The tree I found in Salt Fork State Park

I went to a Southeastern Ohio Society for Bigfoot Investigation(see page 24) meeting on July 12, 2014. While I was there I met Terry and Treba Jahn, two Bigfoot researchers from Westerville, Ohio. A week later I saw them at a SOSBI camp out in Salt Fork State Park.

Terry and Treba investigate Bigfoot sightings because they saw one in 1984. They were riding in a Volkswagen Beetle at the time and were driving near Hoover Reservoir. The area where they saw Bigfoot is now a housing division, but was all woods at the time. There was a Bigfoot sitting down in the middle of the road in front of them, and they said the head was higher than their car!

Terry swerved to avoid hitting the creature and they drove on. Neither of them said “What was that?” and didn’t talk about it for 10 years. When they finally did talk about it, they began investigating other Bigfoot sightings. Terry and Treba have also had several other encounters with possible Bigfoots. They saw one in Salt Fork State park in 2006, and that sighting was featured on the Ohio Grassman episode of the TV show *MonsterQuest.*

Terry and Treba also told me of another incident when a Bigfoot shoved a trailer home off of it’s foundation in 2005. They investigated a sighting that occurred on January 13 of that year. The sighting occurred near Cardington in Morrow County. Terry, Treba, and Sarah W. of Hilliard, Ohio, talked to two witnesses who had been sitting around one of the witnesses trailer. That witness, Josh, was 18. The other witness, Charles, was 22.

On the 13th of January, the two were sitting outside around a fire. Josh asked Charles to go and get more firewood, which he did. When Josh was going to get the firewood, he saw something stand up in six-foot weeds. Charles said that the thing looked like a human but was much larger.

The creature’s shoulders were higher than the weeds and it was black in

color. It stood slightly hunched over. Charles froze at this time, realizing that the creature was definitely not a deer. Its eyes reflected red from the security light on Josh's trailer. Charles got Josh's attention, and when he looked over the creature turned and took off. It ran off into a creek, which only came up to its waist. The creature climbed up the bank on the other side of the creek and walked off, still in a hunched over posture.

Charles and Josh both ran into Josh's trailer. The next day they went out to look for tracks. They found one track in a field on the other side of the creek that measured 18 inches long, 8 inches wide at the toes, and six inches wide at the heel. After that time they heard wood knocks and howls. This is the incident where the Bigfoot knocked the trailer off of its foundation.

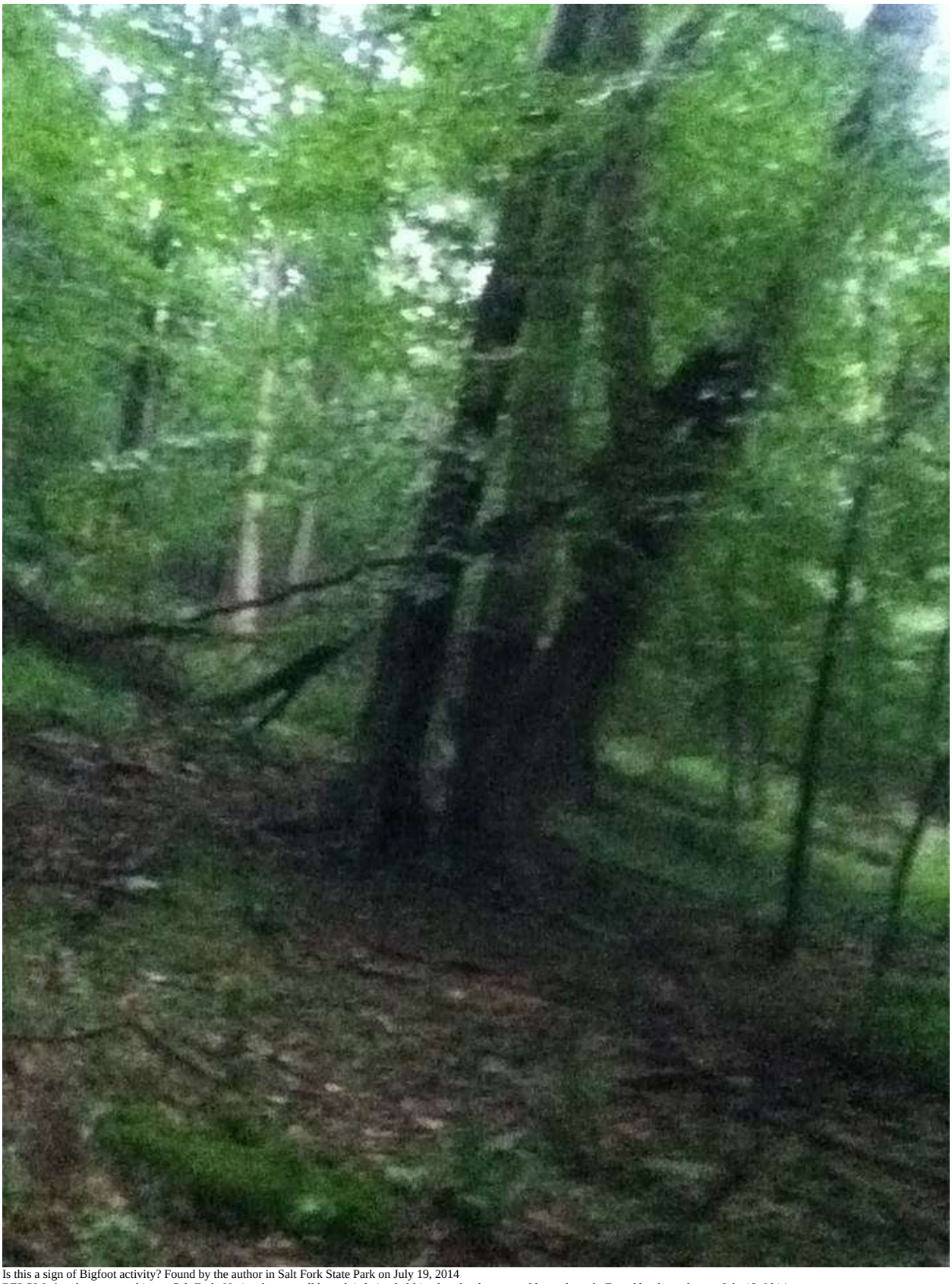
When I was at the SOSBI camp out in Salt Fork in July 2014, I went hiking on several trails where there have been Bigfoot sightings. I returned to Hosaks Cave, where we had gone in April at the Ohio Bigfoot Conference, and also hiked on a few other trails. One of the trails led back to the Stone House Museum. It was an interesting old building. Sadly, Bigfoot had decided not to visit it on that day.

The last trail we hiked on Saturday before we left was Morgan's Knob Trail. That trail is connected to Morgan's Knob Loop Trail and is the place of several Bigfoot encounters. Just a year or two ago, several kids hiking on the trail sighted a Bigfoot watching a deer. They ran back to their parents and told them what they had seen. The kids' story was featured on one episode of Destination America's *Monsters and Mysteries in America.*

We did not see Bigfoot while on the trail, but we did spot a deer. That deer showed us how hard it is to spot things in the park. It was standing out in the open, but still saw us before we saw it. Now, Bigfoot is smarter than a deer, so imagine how easily it could avoid being seen by humans walking in the woods.

I have included a few pictures from the campout on the next few pages.

The Stone House Museum in Salt Fork State Park.



Is this a sign of Bigfoot activity? Found by the author in Salt Fork State Park on July 19, 2014
BELOW: Another strange thing at Salt Fork. Notice that a small branch is being held in place by the tree and larger branch. Found by the author on July 19, 2014.

RIGHT: Lean-to found in Salt

Fork State Park by the author on
July 9, 2014.
Conclusion: Man made.

Footprint found in Salt Fork State Park, not found by the author.
Photo courtesy of Joedy Cook

Florida: They Stink!

Most people who have seen a Bigfoot said that the creature had an awful smell, but in Florida lives the stinkiest Sasquatch around. Its smell has even given it the name of Skunk Ape. There may even be two types of skunk apes! Before World War II, the creatures were described as short, hairy, and smelly, almost like a chimpanzee. The chimp--Skunk Apes almost sound like Napes (North American Apes, a term coined by Cryptozoologist Loren Coleman). Witnesses said the Skunk Apes moved around on all fours.

There seems to be a second kind of Skunk Ape that looks more like your average Bigfoot. It is described as bipedal, seven feet tall, weighing about 300 pounds, with dark red, brown, or black fur, and it has a terrible odor that smells like a combination of skunk, rotten

eggs, and cow manure.

Skunk ape photo, taken in 2000

Some Skunk Ape sightings involved multiple creatures. In November 1975, seven young men saw 3 of them in Citrus County, Florida. Three also appeared in February 1977, and one was 10 feet tall! In 1997, a bus tour of foreign tourists saw a large, ape--like creature. Soon afterward, Ochopee fire chief Vince Doerr saw a similar creature cross the road near his home. He managed to take a quick picture before it disappeared into the swamp.

Vince Doerr's photo

The photo the fire chief took stirred a great deal of publicity, but he believed it was just a prankster in a gorilla suit. This is what he said:

"I just think someone's playing games. I just looked at it and laughed. If I thought it was real, I would have run in there, beat it to death, and sold it to the National Enquirer."

Others did not think it was a fake.

MoMo: Missouri Monster

A creature that looked similar to the Minerva Monster in Ohio was seen in Missouri in 1972. People started calling it the Missouri

Monster, or MoMo. But, MoMo isn't the only strange thing seen in Missouri. River Road, which stretches north from Highway 54 along the Mississippi River, has a longstanding tradition about a "phantom man" who walks across the road and then vanishes into thin air. Travelers heard what sounded like a woman's scream emanating from an old abandoned lime kiln in the 1940s. The screams were always heard around midnight, and they were never explained.

A couple was found dead in their car around the same area in the winter of 1954. A woman sat in the passenger seat almost looking like she had just went to sleep, and a man was found crouched under the steering wheel completely nude. His clothes were found in a pile 20 feet behind the car. The deaths were listed to be caused by asphyxiation even though one of the windows was rolled all the way down (in --10 degree weather!) The MoMo story started in July 1971, when Joan Mills and Mary Ryan were having a picnic near Highway 79. While they were eating, they smelled an awful odor. As Mary Ryan said, "I never smelled anything as bad in my life." Joan though they might be smelling a whole family of skunks, but was then shocked at what she saw standing in the bushes. "I turned and saw this thing standing there in the thicket," she said. "The weeds were high and I only saw the top part. It was staring down at us."

The two described the creature as an ape--man. Mary Ryan said this:

" It was a half--ape half--man. I've been reading up on the Abominable Snowman since then, from stories to articles, and you get the feeling it is something more like a gorilla. This thing we saw was not like that. It had hair all over its body, like an ape, but its face was more like a

human."

When the creature made a gurgling sound and stepped out of the

brush the women rushed to the car. They locked the doors, and the beast followed them, caressed the hood, and then tried to unlock the doors, a definite sign of intelligence. It walked on two feet the whole time, and it's arms "dangled way down." The two said it's arms were covered by hair but it's hand were hairless. The two could do nothing but wait for the beast to leave, because Mills had left her keys in her purse, which was still sitting at the picnic area. Mills' arm hit the horn, and the noise caused the beast to "jump straight in the air and move back." Mills didn't know what else to do, so she just kept beeping the horn. After a while, the creature realized it was in no danger. It proceeded to walk over to the area where the two had been eating, picked up a peanut butter sandwich, sniffed it, and at it. It then picked up Joan's pure, but dropped it and walked back into the woods. Joan got out of the car and grabbed her purse, and the two left.

That was only the beginning of MoMo sightings. About a year later, on July 11, 1972, Terry Harrison and his brother Wally (ages 8 and 5), were playing in their yard when their older sister Doris, who was inside, heard them scream. She looked out the window and saw a creature that was "six to seven feet tall, black, and hairy." She said it stood like a man but didn't look like one.

The creature was flecked with blood, probably from the dead dog it had under its arm. Doris could not see the face because it was covered with hair.

That same afternoon, Clarence Lee, who lived half a block away, heard some animal growling. Not long after that, she talked to a farmer whose dog had recently disappeared. He wondered if "the monster had taken it."

On July 14, Doris' father, Edgar Harrison, conducted the regular Friday prayer meeting at his house. About 45 minutes after the meeting had ended, at about 9:15, he heard noises like rocks being thrown on metal. The sound was coming from a reservoir on the top of Marzolf Hill. After one loud ring, Harrison said he heard "something that sounded like a loud growl. It kept getting louder and

closer. At that time my family came running from the house. They were insisting that I drive away, so I drove down Allen Street to the Town Branch. My wife told the congregation 'here it comes!', and those 40 people turned and ran."

Two police officers, Jerry Floyd and John Whitaker, went to the Harrison's property but found nothing. Later that night, Harrison and several others explored Marzolf Hill. They smelled a bad odor Harrison described as "a moldy, horse smell or a strong garbage smell." He smelled the smell on other occasions when he was near areas emitting weird noises.

At 5:00 the next morning, Pat Howard saw a "dark object" walk like a man across the road.

On the 19th, police chief Shelby Ward, Edgar Harrison, State Conservation officer Gus Artus, and seventeen others searched for the MoMo on Marzolf Hill. They found nothing.

The next day, Richard Crowe, a reporter for the *Irish Times* and *Fate* magazine, went to Marzolf Hill, along with Loren Smith. They found a "circular spot in the brush where leaves and twigs had been snipped from branches" where Doris Harrison had seen the monster. Crowe also found evidence where someone or something had been digging in an old garbage dump. Edgar Harrison showed him two old dog graves where the bones had been dug up and scattered about.

Higher on the hill they found two tracks. The first was over 10 inches long and was 5 inches wide, and appeared to be a footprint. The other was a five inch handprint. (Possible Bigfoot handprints have also been found in Ohio, see page 19.) Both of the prints were made in hard soil (it hadn't rained there in over 10 days), and Crowe estimated that it would take something weighing over 200 pounds to make them.

Harrison then led Crowe to an old shack where he thought the monster would occasionally rest. While they were there, Harrison's dog suddenly ran away, and they smelled the horrible smell attributed to the monster. "That's him, boys!" Harrison yelled. "He's around

here somewhere."

They pulled out their flashlights and checked the surrounding trees, but didn't see MoMo. They heard dogs barking in the distance. Usually when the monster was on the hill, people said dogs would refuse to go in the area and would run up and down the streets, in an agitated state. Within five minutes of when Harrison and Crowe had first smelled the odor it had disappeared.

Harrison, Loren Smith, and Crowe would smell the odor a second time before the night was over.

On Friday, July 21, Ellis Minor heard his dog start to growl around 10:30 p.m. He thought at first that there was another dog in his yard, but when the dog kept growling, he stepped outside with a powerful flashlight. He then saw a 6--foot tall, black, hairy creature standing like a man. When the light hit it, it ran into the woods. By this time, Edgar Harrison was obsessed with finding out what the monster was. He had refused to come home after the howling incident on the 14th, and had taken up residence at a restaurant the family ran downtown. He camped out at the foot of Marzolf Hill for 21 nights in a row. Nothing could make him stop looking for the monster, even a report from Oklahoma City's Zoo director saying that the print he found "does not seem like a natural print made by any living animal."

Harrison never got a chance to lay his eyes on MoMo. He did, however, feel that he had succeeded in making a discovery that added a whole new level to the mystery -- he believed the smell attributed to the monster was a stink gas used to distract people when they were searching for the creature.

In late July, mysterious three--toed tracks appeared on a farm eight miles south of Louisiana. On August third, Mr. and Mrs. Bill Suddarth heard strange screams coming from their yard. They ran outside and found four three--toed tracks in their garden. Suddarth called his friend Clyd Penrod, who came and made a cast of the best print. He said he could not understand how the tracks had been made. No one was able to solve the mystery in 1972, and it remains

that way to the present day.

Wisconsin is Bigfoot Territory

Wisconsin seems to be a state with lots of cryptid activity. There have been many reports of Bigfoot, which will be told in this section, along with lake monsters like Rocky(see chapter two), the Hodag(chapter five), and werewolves(chapter four). One Bigfoot, dubbed the "Lima Marsh Monster" by author Linda S. Godfrey, was seen by a college student on March 9, 2005. It was seen near the Lima Marsh Wildlife Area. The witness said she saw a large, furry biped run across the road. A year later, Lenny and Stacie Faytus saw the same creature, and they were positive it was a Bigfoot. The couple owns a restaurant in Delavan called the Richmond House. The knew nothing about the college student's experience at the time of their sighting. They said their sighting occurred at the end of April or the Beginning of May.

Lenny and Stacie were driving to a pet--sitting job on McCord Road in the late afternoon. They saw a farmer in a field with an unusual number of lights on his equipment (it was not quite dark yet). "We thought he must be scared of something," Lenny said. "He must have had 15 lights on, pointed 360 degrees around his tractor."

Minutes later, Lenny saw something strange moving up ahead. The creature came out of the woods and started walking across the road. As Lenny continued to drive towards the creature, which was now crossing the road, he realized it was no deer. " I thought, 'it must be a person'," Lenny said. "But it was a medium brown color, like a deer. It stood upright, and walked in quick, easy strides across the road." Both Lenny and Stacie said they felt like they had gotten a message from the creature telling them to "stay out." They quickly left the area.

In 1964, a Delavan man driving home from work saw a dark, fur covered creature he said was a Bigfoot standing in a cornfield. The creature leaped over a four-- foot fence easily and ran across the road, standing upright the whole time.

Two women who grew up around Palmyra said they saw a Bigfoot in the 1970s.

Also in the 1970s, a woman who lived in Jefferson County contacted DNR officials to report that she had seen a tall, hairy, ape--like creature near her farm. David Gjetson drove out to investigate but found nothing. Gjetson received another call from the woman two weeks later. She said the creature was back and had tried to break into her house. It then ran to the barn and attacked a horse. She said it left huge tracks, but Gjetson was able to find none.

One woman said Bigfoot had picked her up and carried her. Some Indians say the Bigfoot creatures are cannibals and carry off women and children, but this one did not do that. The woman said she had lost her balance and fell down a hill when she heard something sniffing her. She never opened her eyes, but the creature grabbed her and carried her back up to the road. She said the creature carried her very gently and easily. She could feel it breathing on her as it carried her up the hill. When she opened her eyes, she was back at the top of the hill with her sister. She then discovered that she had broken her ankle when she fell down the hill. Neither she nor her sister saw the creature, but she knew it was something big.

Another incident occurred one summer when a woman said her friends who had come over asked why the neighbors had a huge, hairy statue in their yard. When the woman and her friends went over to look, the "statue" was gone! The woman said she had Bigfoot activity on her property that summer and the summer before.

Lima Marsh, where Bigfoot has been seen in Wisconsin

2 Lake Monsters and Other Aquatic Critters

When the first sailors went out to sea, they told stories of "Sea Serpents" they saw on their voyages. Similar creatures are seen in lakes all over the world. They used to be called "sea serpents" in the lakes, but now everyone calls them lake monsters. These creatures are seen in lakes (and a few rivers) all across the United States. The lake and river monsters discussed in this chapter are only a tiny fraction of all the strange aquatic monsters spotted in America, and they are just as strange as any other monster.

Champ

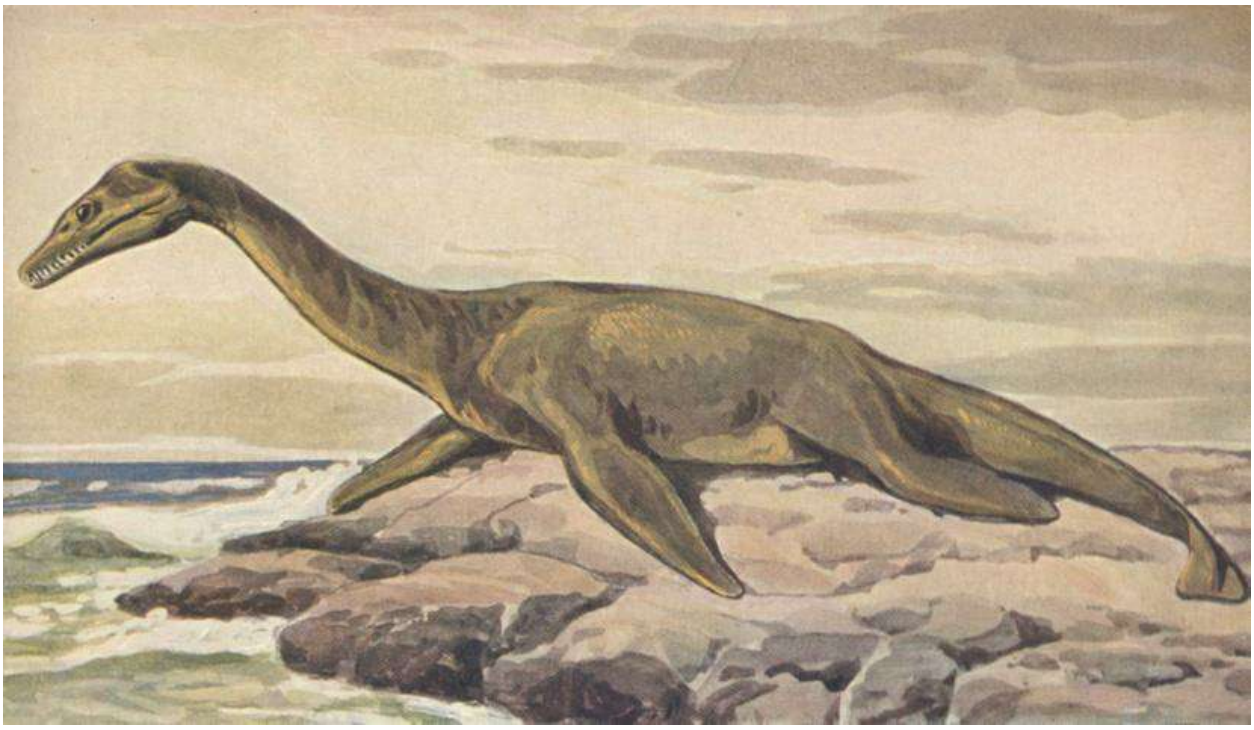
By far, the most famous American lake monster is "Champ" of Lake Champlain. Lake Champlain is located between New York and Vermont and extends a little up into Canada. The lake is 109 miles long and its maximum depth is 400 feet -- that's plenty of room for a monster to hide. Lake Champlain is the largest oligotrophic lake in the U.S. with the exception of the Great Lakes. A couple thousand years ago, the lake was part of a larger body of water called the Champlain Sea, an arm of the Atlantic Ocean. Eventually the lake was cut off from the rest of the sea and became fresh water.

What could be the first sighting of a monster in Lake Champlain occurred in the year 1609. According to historians, Samuel de Champlain, who the lake is named after, saw "a serpent--like creature, about 20 feet long, as thick as a barrel, and with a head like a horse."

Samuel de Champlain

Champ has been seen many, many times since then. I went to Lake Champlain in the summer of 2013 and met a woman who had seen Champ. She said she had seen it in the 1980s, when it rose out of the water, swam a little ways, and then disappeared under the surface. She said it had a large hump and a long neck. She thinks that it likes the colder water near the bottom of the lake and that is why it is not seen much.

Many people think that Champ and other lake monsters
Could be plesiosaurs, ancient marine reptiles that lived
During the age of the dinosaurs



I also met Lorraine Franklin, owner of Champ's Trading Post in Vermont. She told me of a sighting where a man saw a huge creature swimming alongside his boat.

The most famous Champ sighting occurred on July 5, 1977, when Sandra Mansi saw Champ rise from the lake and took a picture of it. That picture is one of the best photos of any lake monster. Sandra's children were playing in the lake when she saw the monster. Her husband Anthony went to the car and grabbed the camera. He handed it to Sandra and went to get the kids out of the water. Sandra said that the whole sighting lasted about 5 minutes.

Sandra Mansi's Photographof Champ

Scientists have looked at the Mansi photo, and it has never been proven to be a fake. Sandra still sticks to her story to this day.

Joseph Zarzynski lists over 200 Champ sightings in his book *Champ: Beyond the Legend*. But, there have been many more sightings since the publication of his book in 1984. His book is my personal favorite on the subject of Champ.

Rocky, The Monster in Rock Lake

Champ may have a cousin dubbed "Rocky" living in Rock Lake, Wisconsin. Rock Lake is also known for its 30 foot high pyramids that sit below its surface. No one knows if they are man--made or natural, or how they got to the bottom of the lake. The Indians in the area called them "rock tepees" but could not explain them. In the late 1800s, fishermen and boaters started reporting something other than rock pyramids. They had seen a giant, snake--like creature in

the lake. Most lake monsters are usually said to be curious and shy, but this one was not. Fred Seaver, a fisherman, said it took his line and pulled him across the lake for a mile and a half. Another fisherman said he actually speared it, but it was too strong for him to drag to shore. The people around the lake dubbed it "The Terror."(This is starting to sound like an episode of Scooby Doo, isn't it?)

As the years passed, the creature seemed to grow more aggressive. Two men racing in rowboats said they saw a monster with an upraised head and jaws lined with teeth. The men tried to fight off the monster with their oars, and were soon joined by some men who had rowed out with a shotgun. By the time the others got there, the creature had disappeared under the water and left a foul stench behind.

Sightings stopped in Rock Lake as time went on, but then started in Red Cedar Lake, located about 5 miles away. Some people think old Rocky left Rock Lake and went to Red Cedar Lake. After awhile, reports also stopped coming from Red Cedar Lake. Some think the monster worked his way back to Rock Lake, and he was seen there in 1943. Joseph Davis saw about 6 feet of the monster rise out of the water. Rocky has not been seen much since then.

South Bay Bessie

The monster seen in Lake Erie obviously got it's nickname copied from Scotland's famous Nessie. "Bessie", as it is called, has been seen in Lake Erie since 1793, when the captain of the sloop Felicity saw "a serpentine creature more than a rod (16 1/2 feet) in length."

The monster was then seen twice in 1817. On July 7, Captain Shubael West and his crew on the schooner Delia saw a "serpent" 30 to 40 feet long. Another boat's crew fired at a creature they said was "copper--colored and 60 feet in length." Their shots had no effect.

Two brothers named Dusseau saw a 20 to 30 foot long monster in 1887. They assumed it was in its death throes. They said it looked like a sturgeon, but it had "arms." They left to get rope and capture the creature, but it was gone when they returned.

That must not have been dying Bessie, because the monster was seen again in July of 1892. Captain Woods of the schooner *Madaline* saw a "huge serpent" while en route from Buffalo, New York, to Toledo. He said it was "wrestling around in the water, as if it was fighting with some unseen foe." Its eyes were "viciously sparkling." Woods said it was 50 feet long, with a four--foot circumference, and it had prominent fins on its back.

On May 5, 1896, the monster was seen by four witnesses off Crystal Beach. They watched it for 45 minutes and said it had a dog's head and a pointed tail.

On July 8, 1898, the *Sandusky Daily Register* said that Lake Erie's monster population had been verified and that "their existence can no longer be questioned."

They were described as "fierce, ugly, coiling creatures." They were said to be amphibious and 25 to 30 feet long.

Another known hoax at Lake Erie occurred on April Fools day of 1912. The *Sandusky Daily Register* (once again) said the monster had been seen breaking through a sheet of ice near Kelleys Island, heading towards shore with mouth agape and fangs displayed.

Kelleys Island

In July of 1931, a “monster” was captured at Sandusky. The “monster”, however, turned out to be a python. (For more on mysterious snakes, see chapter 6.)

The next sighting occurred in 1960, when Ken Golic saw a “cigar--shaped creature.” It’s back rose about 18 inches out of the water.

Jim Schindler said the monster passed within six feet of him in 1969 while he was fishing. He said it was two feet wide, but did not know how long it was.

A serpentine creature “so large that it could capsize a boat” was seen “playing” in 1981.

Mary Landoll saw Bessie in 1983. She thought at first that the creature was a 50 foot capsized boat, but then a long neck rose out

of the water. She said she saw an eye and a “grin” on its face.

A dark brown monster was seen in the summer of 1985. It had “a flat tail and 5 humps.” “There’s no way it was a sturgeon,” Tony Schill, one of the witnesses, said. Dale Munro also saw Bessie later that same year, near the Lorain Coast Guard Station. He said it had three humps and was twice the length of his 16--foot long boat.

Gail Kasner saw Bessie on a fish finder in 1989. The object was 30 feet below the boat and was about 35 feet long.

Susan Seeson saw Bessie on July 8, 1990. There were many sighting in September 1990. Bob Soracco, a tourist from Florida, saw the monster while jet skiing near Port Clinton on September 3rd. He said it was very long and was gray. Harold Bricker saw the creature the next day and called DNR rangers. He said it had passed within 1,000 feet of his boat while he and his family were fishing off Cedar Point. Steve Dircks and Jim Johnson saw a “dark blue or black creature, 30 to 45 feet long, with three humps that were flat on top.”

Dennis Szececinski saw a “long black creature” swimming near Toledo around September 16.

George Repicz videotaped Bessie for 20 seconds in July 1991. Skeptics said the object he filmed was just a floating log.

A 35--foot replica of Bessie was built by Thomas Schofield. The replica was secured to the mouth of the Huron River, where it remained until 2004. It disappeared around the time of Schofield’s death. His sons replaced it around father’s day in 2005. They made a 27--foot long, 4--foot tall model along with a “baby Bessie” model.

The White River Monster

The "White River Monster" began being seen in the White River in Arkansas in 1924, when it was seen by a woman who said it was a "terrible looking thing." She said it had a "dingy, gray, crusted hide," and made a blowing noise.

The next sighting occurred in 1937, when a local farmer named Bramblett Bateman saw the monster. This is his story:

"On the first of July, 1937, I was standing on the bank of the White River at about one o'clock, and something appeared in the river about 375 feet from where I was standing. From the best I could tell from that distance, it would be about 12 feet long and four to five feet wide. I did not see the head nor tail when it rose to the surface. It stayed in that position for five minutes. It did not move up or down the river, but afterward I have seen it move up and down the river, but never have I been able to determine the full size of the creature. Two weeks ago from this date, September 22, 1937, I saw the thing upstream about 200 yards from where I first saw it. At this time the monster was in the current of the river, all the times before it had

been in the eddy."

Mr. Bateman gave a brief background of himself in his letter and said he knew of at least 25 others who had seen the creature.

A flurry of new monster sighting occurred in 1971. Here are three incidents:

1. "I saw a creature the size of a boxcar thrashing in the

White River. It was smooth, gray in color, and long. The thing was peeling all over. It had a smooth type of skin. Water began to boil up three feet all around him... I never saw the head."

2. "A giant form rose to the surface and began moving in the middle of the river. It was very long and grey colored. It had a spiny backbone that was about 30 feet long. It made no noise except for the splashing and bubbles around it. It looked like something prehistoric."

3. "The thing I saw looked like it came from the ocean. It was gray colored, real long, and had a long, pointed bone sticking out of its forehead. It resembled an animal more than a fish."

Weird, giant footprints were found on an island in the same section of the river not long after those sightings. The tracks had three toes, with claws, and were 14 inches long and 8 inches wide. The distance between each print was 8 feet. They went out of the water, then back in. One investigator noticed small trees that had been pulled over, and a large area of flattened grass where something had been laying.

A dinosaur footprint that may look like those found at the White River. The creature could not be a dinosaur, however, because all dinosaurs lived on land. Plesiosaurs, like the one pictured in the Champ section, lived in the ocean at that time.

The Flathead Lake Monster

One of the best--known lake monsters from the western U.S. is the monster seen in Flathead Lake in Montana. The monster was first sighted in the 1880s, when the captain of the first steamboat to operate on the lake saw what he at first took to be another boat approaching him. When he got closer to the object, however, he realized it was actually a whale sized animal swimming towards the boat. A passenger fired at it and the monster submerged.

In 1919, another steamboat almost collided with a huge, unidentified animal. The captain at first thought it was a floating log, but then the animal swam away. The 50 passengers and the crew also saw the creature.

Flathead Lake Monster Soda

A man fishing on a bridge observed the monster in 1937. The bridge spanned the Flathead River, which is connected to Flathead Lake. He thought he was seeing a swimming dog at first, but then realized that he was watching a 6--foot water monster. It had a broad head and a mane of brown hair

on its neck. He was certain that the thing wasn't a beaver, otter, bear, or any other known animal that he knew of. This man's observation is interesting because the creature he saw might have been a baby. If there was a baby, there would be a whole population of monsters in Flathead Lake.

One of Flathead Lake's monsters came very close to a family in 1960. They went to investigate splashing sounds coming from a pier and found a large animal rubbing its back on one of the pillars.

The creature raised its head at one point. The wife said "It was a horrible looking thing… It had a head like a horse, and there was about a foot of neck showing." The husband went to grab a rifle, but the beast was gone by the time he got back.

Four people in a motorboat chased the monster one day in 1971. The creature rose up about 100 feet from the boat, and one man thought "What is Jack going to do when he catches it? This is like a dog chasing a car!" They never did catch it, though, because it submerged when they had gotten about 75 feet from it. About two minutes later, it rose up on the left side, but when the boat was turned towards it, it submerged once again and the party didn't see it again. One of the witnesses said it had several humps and was about 30 feet long.

A retired Army officer and his son saw the monster in 1985 while fishing. The father said:

"At first we thought it was a few scuba divers. We approached slowly after that, not wanting to scare whatever it was. As we got closer, we could see that it was chasing fish in the shallows. When we got within 200 feet of it, we realized that it was nothing that we had seen before. At one point, it raised its head out of the water and looked at us. This thing was big, as long as a telephone pole and twice as large in diameter. The skin was smooth and black. It had the head of a serpent. There were four to six humps sticking out

of the water. It started to move away slowly, but then took off like a streak through the water. It then stopped and looked back at us, but then disappeared under the waves."

A policeman and his family saw the monster chasing a school of fish in 1993. He said it was between 15 and 20 feet long, with a series of shining humps and the head the size of a bowling ball.

The creature has also been seen more recently. In 2005, Julia Manley and her husband saw one of the creatures. They said they saw its humps in the water. "We weren't drinking or anything," Julia said. "We both knew right away that it was the Flathead Lake Monster."

"Lots of people came up to us after that and said 'you know, I saw something just like that, but didn't tell anybody because I didn't want to be laughed at'." Jim Manley said. The Manleys said they don't care if people don't believe their story, they know what they saw.

There have been a total of about 97 Flathead Lake Monster sightings since the 1800s, but, like with other lake monsters and creatures like Bigfoot, there have probably been many, many other people who have seen it (or them) that haven't said anything. The mystery of the Flathead Lake Monster lives on.

3 Skies Filled with Monsters

Along with giant ape--men and aquatic monsters, many mysterious beasties are also seen in North American skies. Many strange creatures have been seen in various states, some of the most famous beings include the Mothman seen in Point Pleasant, West Virginia, and Thunderbirds, which are seen all over the U.S. Those two creatures are included in this chapter, along with the Van Meter Visitor and Living Pterosaurs.

Thunderbirds

Native Americans told stories of giant flying monsters they called Thunderbirds. The Thunderbirds were said to be big enough to pick up a deer, or even a man! They brought storms with them wherever they went (it is said that a Thunderbird made the sounds of thunder when it flapped its wings and could shoot lightning from its mouth and eyes.)

There are many Native American stories of Thunderbirds. Cryptozoologist Mark A. Hall recounts many of them in his book *Thunderbirds: America's Living Legends of Giant Birds* (New York, Cosimo Classics, 2004.)

In one Indian legend, the Montagnais--Naskapi Indians knew of a creature called "Met'co the Eagle Abductor." One time the bird snatched up a boy and flew off as the others watched helplessly. It took the boy to its nest, but didn't eat him. The boy was there for 1 summer, until he grabbed the leg of the great bird one day as it was leaving and returned home.

A Thunderbird on a totem pole

BELOW: An Ojibwe shoulder pouch showing two Thunderbirds

There are many other Indian stories similar to that one, but giant birds are still seen picking up humans! A famous incident occurred in Lawndale, Illinois, in 1977. This is the story.

On July 25, 1977, ten--year--old Marlon Lowe was playing in his

family's yard with a few friends. As he was walking across the yard, two huge, black birds flew over. One of the birds swooped down as it passed over him and grabbed him in its talons. Seven people watched as the huge avian carried Marlon across the yard. It dropped the boy after it had gotten to the other side of the house, apparently because of his mother's screams.

Jerry Coleman, from Decatur, Illinois, interviewed Marlon and his mother only a few hours after the incident.

"I'll always remember how that thing was bending its white neck," Ruth Lowe, Marlon's mother, said. "It seemed to be trying to peck at Marlon as it was flying away."

The Lawndale Incident

She compared the bird's appearance to a condor, but compared its size to an ostrich. She spent many hours in the library after the incident, trying to find out what the bird was, but she had no success. A local sheriff said it had been a turkey vulture, but she disagreed. That's what normally happens when a mysterious creature is seen, be it a Thunderbird, Bigfoot, or

something else. Police always saw it's a known animal, because people might panic if they knew a bird big enough to fly away with people was around their town!
Several sightings occurred in the weeks following

the Lawndale Incident. On July 28, Stanley Thompson, his wife, and a

few friends saw a giant bird fly over their farm. They said the bird had a 6--foot body and a wingspan of 9 to 10 feet.

James Majors saw the birds next. He was driving in a mail truck when he saw 2 birds with wingspans that were more than 8 feet, plump bodies, straight tails, legs and feet with claws about 2.5 to 3.5 inches long, eight inch bills, and "mean" looking faces.

Lisa Montgomery also saw one of the birds on the 28th. She was washing her car and looked up to see a giant bird with a wingspan of at least 7 feet. "It was black and had a real low tail." She said. She said it was flying towards Pekin, Illinois.

Dennis Turner of Downs, Illinois, saw one of the birds with two of his friends at two AM on July 30th. They saw it perched on a telephone pole and said it had a wingspan of six feet or more. They said it dropped something by the pole, and police later found a dead rat at the spot.

Waynesville residents said they saw the same bird at two PM that same day. They said it was black and had an 8--foot wingspan.

On July 30th, "Texas John" Huffer filmed what he said were two of the "big birds." He said he was fishing with his son that morning when he saw two huge birds (he said they left droppings the size of baseballs) on a dead tree. He said their heads were 18 inches long and their wingspans were 12 feet.

Huffer sold part of the film to Champaign's WCIA-- TV station for one newscast, and things got weird after that.

"I weigh 260 pounds, and I wouldn't get close to that thing," Huffer said. By the time the story got to other places in the U.S. and England, Huffer was quoted as saying that the birds weighed 260 pounds! Typical news reporting!

Those are some of the reports from the flap in 1977, but big birds were being seen around there long before that. In 1948, twelve--

year--old James Tares saw a bird “as big as a B--29” near Glendale, Illinois. He knew it was not a plane because he saw it flap its wings. He said its feathers were a gray--green color.

Thunderbird seen by Dennis Turner(see previous page)

On the TV show *MonsterQuest*

On April 9, 1948, Mr. and

Mrs. Robert Price saw a

“monster bird… Bigger than an airplane” on their farm in Caledonia, Illinois. Shortly after, a truck driver said he had seen the same bird in a different location on the same day. “I saw the bird,” he (Veryl Babb) said, “but I didn’t tell anybody because I didn’t want to be laughed at.”

A former army colonel then came forward to say that he had seen the bird on April 4. He said “It was definitely a bird and not a glider or jet plane. I thought there was something wrong with my eyesight at

first."

On April 10, 1948, the bird seen by Price and Babb was seen in Overland, Illinois. Mr. and Mrs. Clyde C. Smith and Les Bacon saw the bird. They thought it was a plane until they saw it flap its wings. They said it was gray in color.

A week later (on the 18th), Chat Burke saw the bird fly past his house. He said it was much smaller than a plane and looked like an albatross, but an albatross has never been officially seen west of Maine.

BELOW: An albatross

E.M. Coleman and his son James saw “an enormous, incredible thing with a body shaped like a torpedo,” on April 24. Coleman said it cast

a shadow the size of a Piper Cub.

That night, Patrolman Clarence Johnson saw a bird the size of a small airplane as it flew silhouetted against the moon. He said he had never seen a bird that big before.

On April 26, 1948, Dr. Kristine Dolezal, a chiropractor, was walking through her kitchen in her second floor apartment when she heard an airplane flying outside, low over the house. “It sounded like something was wrong with the motor,” she said. She stepped out on the porch and saw the plane, and something else. She saw a giant bird that was grayish-- black in color. At one point, she said it looked like the bird and the plane were about to collide. The bird flapped its wings lazily three times, and both it and the plane disappeared into the clouds.

Harry Bradford saw the bird less than 24 hours later. He turned a spotlight on it, and watched it circle around a few times before it disappeared. “I’ve seen it three times in the last four days,” he said. “That’s too much tomfoolery for a man of fifty to take!”

Some people who saw the bird at night said it glowed. “Don’t tell me we have a self--illuminated flying monster!” Charles Hertenstein, the mayor, said. He had been dealing with the reports from the days before and had probably had about enough of it. Strange as it may seem, there have also been reports of live pterosaurs that glow.

The giant, glowing bird was seen for the last time on May 5th. Arthur Davidson called police to say that he had seen it. “It was greyish and illuminated,” he said. “It seemed to be flying over the old folks home.”

Mrs. William Stallings also saw the bird that night. She described it as “bright, greenish--yellow, and as big as a house.”

Those were the last of the 1948 sightings in Illinois. Many

Thunderbird sightings have come from that state, but they have emerged from others as well. Now I will relate a few from other states.

Two cowboys in Arizona supposedly killed a Thunderbird in 1890. They nailed the creature to a barn and its wings covered the entire length. They said it had smooth skin, wings like a bat, and a face like an alligator's. This creature almost sounds like a pterosaur (a flying reptile that lived during the age of the dinosaurs that will be discussed later in this chapter) rather than a big bird.

Two children playing in their yard in the Rio Grande Valley in Texas saw a strange creature in 1976. They looked at it through binoculars while it stood in a nearby field. They described it as a large, black bird, five feet tall, with a six--inch beak and red eyes. They ran inside when it made a shrieking sound and started to approach them.

Alverico Guajardo from Brownsville, Texas, saw a creature that he said looked like a giant bat a short time later. He said he heard a sound like leathery wings, and then claws tore into the back of his shirt! He ran under a tree and the beast eventually left. He said its face looked like that of a monkey; it had no beak.

Marvin Shock and three others watched a quartet of thunderbirds for two hours in Lowell, Ohio, on November 26, 1966. The birds were described as "As big as a man; 4 to 5 feet tall, with beaks five to six inches long, and wingspans of ten feet."

On December four of that same year, 5 pilots saw an even bigger bird by the Gallia--Meigs Regional Airport in Gallipolis, Ohio. They at first mistook it for an airplane. One of the men got in his plane with a camera to get a picture of the bird, but it was gone by the time he took off.

Ohio's neighboring state of Pennsylvania has had its fair share of Thunderbird sightings. Robert Lyman saw a Thunderbird in this state around 1943. He said the wingspan was at least 20 feet! The creature flew off *through* the woods after he spotted it. There have been

many more thunderbird sightings in the state, and I will list them here.

In 1892, Lumbermen saw a “flock” of the big birds. They had 16--foot wingspans.

Arch P. Akeley saw a bird that had been captured by a farmer in 1898. He said it was gray and over four feet tall.

In April 1922, Hiram M. Cranmer saw a creature he identified as a Thunderbird. He said it flew past his home at dusk and had a wingspan of 35 feet. He told no one of his sighting for 35 years.

Robert Lyman (who was mentioned above) saw a Thunderbird in 1940. It had a 20--foot wingspan, but its wings were no more than a foot wide.

A big bird was seen repeatedly around Kettle Creek for three weeks in 1957. Its wingspan was said to be 25 to 30 feet.

A big bird was seen by Hiram Cranmer and others on July 4, 1962.

Mr. and Mrs. John Boyle saw a Thunderbird in 1968 and 1969. The second time they saw it, it landed in a creek. Its wings appeared to extend for 75 feet.

Alvin Schoonover and two others saw a bird carrying a fawn in 1969.

Mrs. Judith Dingler saw a Thunderbird while driving on Route 220 on October 28, 1970. She said it reminded her of an airplane.

Clyde and Anna Mincer saw a Thunderbird on the 9th and 10th of November, 1970. They said it had a 22-- foot wingspan.

A bird with an 18--foot wingspan was seen eating a dead opossum on June 8, 1971.

Clair E. Koons and Wilson Frederick saw a giant bird flying over a creek in 1971.

The big birds were seen many more times over the next two decades. Mark A. Hall lists all these sightings in his book *Thunderbirds: America’s Living Legends of Giant Birds.*

Thunderbirds began being seen again in

Pennsylvania in 2001. Mike Felice claims to have seen a huge bird in South Greensburg on September 25, 2001. He saw it at about 7:30 PM. He was watching cars on Route 119 when he heard a sound like “flags flapping in a thunderstorm.” He then saw a huge black bird with a 10--15 foot wingspan. He said it flapped its wings very slowly.

A resident of Greensville, PA, saw a thunderbird on June 13, 2001. He said it was the size of a small plane. Another resident saw the bird on the 14th, and she described it as “the biggest bird I ever saw.”

Thunderbirds have also been seen in many other states, including Missouri, Kentucky, and Alaska.

No one really knows what Thunderbirds are. Some people say they are just turkey vultures, but would one of those birds be able to pick up a ten--year--old boy? Some people think they are surviving Teratorns. Teratorns lived in South America about 10,000 years ago, and had wingspans of about 23 feet. Is it possible they could have moved into North America and survived until the present day?

IMAGE 1: Teratorns were giant birds that lived about 10,000 years
Ago. Could they have survived until the present day? IMAGE 2: Drawing of the Piasa on a rock

Indians in Illinois connect Thunderbirds with their legend of a creature called the Piasa. The creature's name means "bird that devours man." They

said Piasas would eat villagers.

According to Illini legend, the Piasa lived in a cave in a bluff. It coexisted
with the Illini at first, but during one battle, it took a man from each tribe and ate him, and developed a liking for human flesh. After that, the Illini lived in fear of the creature, until brave Massatoga came
up with a plan. He stood out in the open and chanted, as bait for the Piasa, while 20 warriors hid in ambush. The Piasa came, and all the warriors shot their arrows. Massatoga's plan worked, and the Piasa was killed.

The Thunderbird and Piasa legends may not talk about the same creature at all, but something that looks like a huge bird is still seen around the U.S. I think Thunderbirds are more rare than Bigfoot and creatures like it, and that is why they are not seen as frequently. If
the species is ever proven to be real, and to be a new species, they should be put on the endangered species list, because they may already be facing extinction.

Mothman

The Mothman is probably the best known flying monster in the world. It would be put in the ranks of Bigfoot, the Loch Ness Monster, Sea Serpents, and the Yeti. Many people probably know about Mothman just because they have heard of it, but others know of it because of the 2002 movie *The Mothman Prophecies.* Just like *The Legend of Boggy Creek*(see The Monster in Fouke, chapter 1), *The Mothman Prophecies* was based on true events.

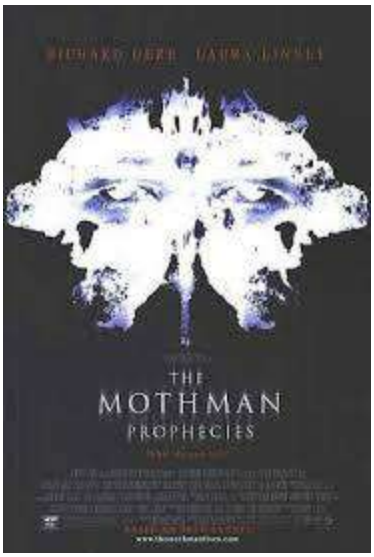
The Mothman was first spotted in 1961 when a resident of Point Pleasant, West Virginia, saw a gray, winged figure on the road. The being may have been startled by the car lights, because it opened up its wings and flew away. But, it never flapped its wings; it just

went straight up.

RIGHT: *The Mothman Prophecies*

LEFT: *What the woman and her father saw in 1961*

Mothman
sightings really took off in November, 1966. They lasted a little over a year, until the Silver



Bridge collapse on December 15, 1967. The first 1966 sightings occurred on November 15, exactly 1 year and 1 month before the Silver Bridge collapse. Roger and Linda Scarberry and Steve and Mary Mallette were joyriding through the TNT area. Explosives had been manufactured there during WWII. The two couples were driving down the mazes of dirt roads when they spotted a strange figure. They all said it had blood red, glowing eyes; that's what got their attention in the first place.

The thing didn't seem to notice the four people, and just walked off towards the generator plant. They didn't care where it was headed; Roger turned around and sped out of there. But their encounter wasn't over yet.

As they were leaving, they saw the thing standing on a hill by the road. They said it was 6 feet tall and had wings "like an angel." "It was shaped like a man, but bigger." Roger said. "It was about six and a half to seven feet tall, and its wings were folded against its back."

The creature's torso looked like a human's, but it had no arms and its face was hard to distinguish; it may have been headless. It walked around clumsily, like a penguin, and had a ten--foot wingspan. The creature took off and followed the car. "We were driving 100 miles per hour," Roger said "And that bird kept up with us, without

flapping its wings." The witnesses said it did make a noise, and it sounded like a "squeak" of a huge mouse.

Both of the women in the car were now crying, and the monster followed the four people all the way into Point Pleasant, still "squeaking." At the town limits, the Mothman turned around and they did not see it again.

The couples stopped at a drive in and called the police. Officers came and they told them their story. The officers went to the TNT area, but did not find anything unusual. They did have scary experiences, though. The couples were there when an officer said he saw shadows circling the old power plant. Deputy Sheriff Mallard Halstead saw a cloud of dust kick up from a coal yard not far away, and he thought the Mothman might have caused it.

Steve Mallette, Roger Scarberry, and the deputies returned that Wednesday during the daylight hours and saw something fly up into a boiler when they kicked a door open. No one saw it long enough to determine what it was.

Linda Scarberry was so shaken by the encounter that she had to be taken to the hospital. After that, she and Roger moved back in with her parents.

Hundreds of people flocked to the TNT area after the Scarberry/Mallette sighting, hoping to get a glimpse of Mothman. Marcella Bunnett, her daughter Tina, and her brother, Raymond Wamsley, and his wife saw the Mothman. They saw lights in the sky at first, but they dismissed them off as a plane.

They approached the Thomas residence in the area to see Ralph Thomas, only to realize that he was not home. Marcella decided to get back in the car and wait until Raymond left, and saw something strange when she reached for the door handle.

She described what she saw as gray, 6 feet tall, and it had feathers. She said it looked like a man, but had wings. It had a bird's head

and just stood there. “It looked like he was relaxing,” She said. “To me it didn’t look like it was of this world.”

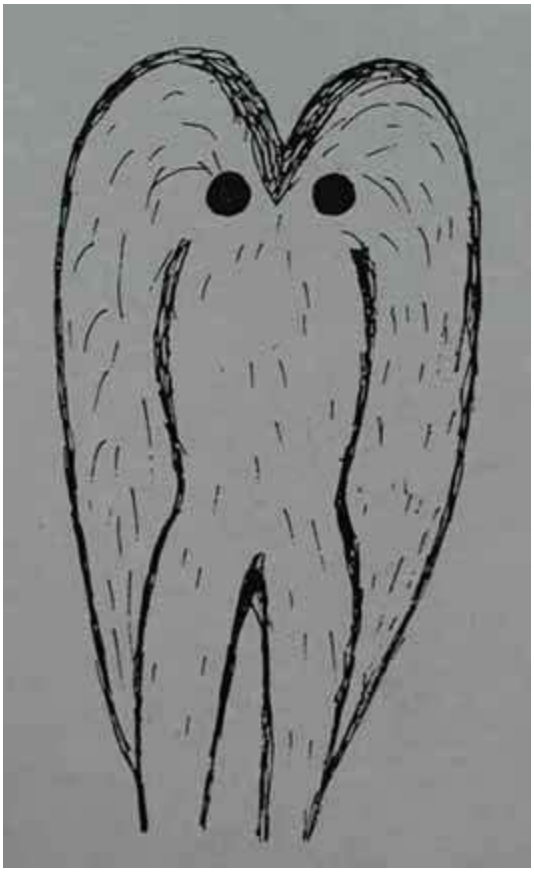
She turned to run, but her legs gave out and she fell on top of little Tina. She lay paralyzed until she heard the Mothman fly away.

They ran into the Thomas house and called the police. One of the Thomas kids looked out the window and saw the thing coming onto their porch. According to some accounts, the creature looked in the window. It was gone when police arrived at the scene.

Over the next several weeks, the Mothman was sighted many times. Roy Grose, a resident of Cheshire, a town not far from Point Pleasant, saw it hovering over a tree in a field across the road from her house. A teenager who was driving by her house that day said he saw a “huge bird”. The “bird” followed his car for about a mile.

After the events of November 15, 1966, other witnesses who had seen the Mothman before that spoke up. One was Kenneth Duncan, who said he saw it on November 12. He described it as a brown, human--like object gliding through the trees near Clendenin, West Virginia.

Common description of the Mothman



On November 20, a couple said they saw the “bird” near Ferry Branch. They said it had a wingspan wider than their truck. It flew across the road and into Ferry Branch Hollow. Howard Miller saw a bird “about four feet tall with red half moons under its eyes.” It landed

on a school bus shelter.

Brenda Jones saw the creature beside a rock quarry near Campbell’s Creek. It then ran into the woods.
On the 25th, Thomas Ury saw a six-foot figure with a wingspan of 10 feet. He said it hovered over his car then flew towards the Ohio River.
Connie Jo Carpenter, a young woman who lived in New Haven, a town

thirteen miles from Point Pleasant, had a strange encounter with the unknown on Sunday, November 27, 12 days after the Scarberry-Mallette encounter. She was driving home from church, alone, at 10:30 in the morning. As she was driving, she saw a strange figure adjacent to the Mason County Golf Course.

She described the thing as man-like and 7 feet tall. She then watched it as two huge wings sprouted from its back. It took off and flew straight towards her car. She said it had large red eyes and a tiny head.

Connie moved to Ohio the following February, and strange events continued. A man tried to abduct her one morning while she was going to school, and she later got a note saying "Watch yourself, girl. We can get you."

On December 7, 1966, a car in Ohio nearly collided with a "gray, man-shaped creature with glowing red eyes and a ten foot wingspan."

Katlyn Beaver saw something fly over her car on December 11.

A Point Pleasant businessman saw Mothman in his yard one night. He said it was over 6 feet tall, gray, and had flaming eyes. He said it flew off like something out of a B grade horror film.

Ruth Foster saw the Mothman on November 25 in St. Albans. She said it had large, red eyes and a "funny" face. She ran into the house and sent her brother-in-law to investigate. It was gone by the time he got to the porch.

The next day, Sheila Cane and her younger sister said that they were chased by the Mothman after they saw it at a St. Albans dumpsite. As Sheila described it:

"It was gray and white, probably about 7 feet tall, taller than a man. I screamed and we started to run home. This thing flew up in the air and chased us part of the way back home."

Faye DeWitt-Leport said she was also chased by Mothman. She had gone to the TNT area in Point Pleasant one night with her brother and two younger siblings to see if they could spot the creature. As they were approaching the area, her brother spotted the creature by the road. It was moving along beside the car, looking in the window. Her brother came to a quick stop, and then things really got scary. The monster proceeded to land on the hood of the car! It then shot back up into the air and landed on top of a four story building. The thing then "hissed" at them, and Faye's brother threw a stone at it. He continued to throw stones until it seemed that the creature had assumed an

aggressive posture, and then they all left the area quickly.

After the first Mothman reports hit the newspaper, other witnesses came forward. Kenneth Duncan said he and four other men saw a brown creature fly past them while he was digging a grave. The other men did not see whatever it was.

On November 17, a boy from Cheshire, Ohio, said the Mothman chased his car.

Four boys exploring the TNT area on November 20 saw a gray, man sized creature with glowing red eyes. They tried to get closer to the creature before it flew off, but did not get too close before it did.

The following night, November 21st, police in Charleston, WV, received a call from Richard West at around 10 p.m. Mr. West said he saw a “batman” on the roof of a neighbor’s house. It had red eyes and shot off the roof like a helicopter.

The Mothman sightings continued into the next year. On January 11, 1967, Mabel McDaniel, who happened to be Linda Scarberry’s mother, saw a huge winged creature over Route 62, near Tiny’s drive-in restaurant, at 5 p.m. She at first thought it was an airplane, but then realized it was something much different. “It was brown and had a wingspan of at least ten feet,” She said. "I saw two legs dangling behind it…. It was flying above Tiny’s restaurant… It didn’t seem to have a head or neck.” She never saw it flap its wings, and it made no noise.

Later the same day, Chester Leport and Stevie Pearson, Jr. were in the TNT area when they saw something shoot by above them. Both said the creature they saw made a strange sound. The said it came from the direction of the Ohio River.

The last notable Mothman sighting of 1967 occurred on November 2. Mrs. Ralph Thomas (you may remember the Thomases, Marcella Bennett was visiting on their property at the time of her encounter) heard a strange squeaking sound outside and went to investigate. She said she saw something tall and brown moving around in the concrete igloos in the TNT area.

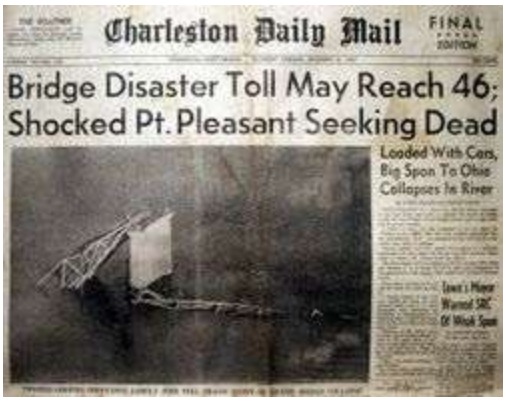
The date was December 15, 1967, exactly 1 year and 1 month after the first Mothman encounter. It was 5:04 p.m., in the middle of rush hour. The Silver Bridge, which spanned across the Ohio River and connected Point Pleasant to the Buckeye State, was packed with cars. Suddenly, it began to creak, and

then collapsed. Cars, shoppers, Christmas presents, and kids all fell into the river below. Forty-six lives were lost in the collapse, and 44 bodies were recovered.

The U.S. Department of Transportation conducted an analysis on the bridge collapse and said it happened because the number 13 eyebar pin had failed, causing the eyebar chain to drop. The eyebar downriver was unable to support the weight of the entire structure and the bridge collapsed.

That is what happened to the Silver Bridge, but does it have anything to do with Mothman? It might. Just before the collapse, several people said they saw the Mothman near the Silver Bridge. Since then, the Mothman has been thought of as an omen of doom.

Newspaper article on the Silver Bridge collapse on December 15, 1967


Charleston Daily Mail

FINAL

Bridge Disaster Toll May Reach 46; Shocked Pt. Pleasant Seeking Dead

Loaded With Cars, Big Span To Ohio Collapses In River

Contrary to popular belief, Mothman sightings did not stop after 1967. John Hipes, who grew up in Point Pleasant during the 1970s, saw a winged creature on a bridge on Route 2 at about 11 p.m. one night. He slowed down, trying not to spook what he thought was a deer. However, the figure he saw was no deer. It stood up as he and his wife approached, and they saw that it had wings (they estimated the wingspan at 12 to 16 feet.) It was over 5 feet tall. “There’s no way it was an owl,” Hipes said. “The body was too big. Very odd.”

Mothman has been sighted in Ohio numerous times in recent years. A

creature matching the description attacked unidentified persons in the woods near Columbus in 2003.

An Ohio driver saw a creature that looked like the Mothman, but with no wings, in 2005. It was white or gray, man-sized, and bipedal.

A resident from Monroe County saw a strange creature at 4 a.m. in November 2008. He described it as “a large creature crouched down on the road, with red glowing eyes and very large wings.” He swerved to avoid hitting it, and when he glanced back it had vanished.

On September 14, 2009, a motorist observed a “solid black entity” in Stow. He said it had “no discernible head or facial features” and was 9 to 10 feet tall.

A woman from Cincinnati named “Liz” saw the Mothman on January 14, 2009, while returning from a date. She said it was a “massive thing” as tall as a nearby shed and had two curved masses (probably wings) coming from its sides. A friend, “Allie”, heard a light tapping on her bedroom window at about the same time and saw two red, glowing objects (Mothman eyes?) move into a neighbor’s yard.

A witness from Sciotodale saw the Mothman a few months later, on March 10, 2011. She said it was flying about 80 feet above her, was tan in color, and had a 12 to 15 foot wingspan. She estimated that it was flying around 20 miles per hour.

To this day, no one really knows what Mothman is. Some say it is just a great horned owl, some say its a sandhill crane, but others think it could be an alien or something from another dimension. The residents of Point Pleasant, West Virginia, still remember the Mothman sightings from the ‘60s and hold the annual Mothman Festival each year. A 12 foot statue of the creature created by Bob Roach was unveiled in 2003. The Mothman Museum and Research Center, run by Jeff Wamsley, opened in 2005. The Mothman mystery continues, and probably will forever.

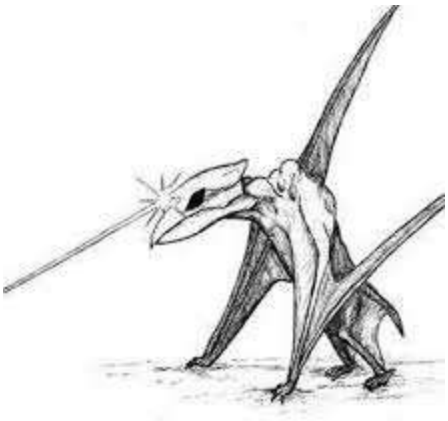
The Mothman Statue in Point Pleasant

The Van Meter Visitor

112 years ago, the town of Van Meter, Iowa, was the hotspot for sightings of a strange, flying monster. Eventually named the Van Meter Visitor, the creature was described as having large wings, a beak, and a horn on its head that emitted a powerful light.

The first witness was a local doctor named A. C. Olcott. One evening, while he was sleeping, he was awoken by a powerful flash. He jumped up, grabbed his shotgun, and ran out to see what had caused the blinding light. To his horror, he saw a huge creature with bat-like wings, a beak, and a glowing horn on its head descending from the sky. He fired without hesitation, causing the creature, which had landed, to lunge at him before it flew away. Olcott said the thing left a nauseating stench when it departed.

Later the same night, a guard at the local credit union fired at the same creature. After that, another doctor saw the creature climbing a telephone pole and did the same thing Olcott had done; he grabbed his shotgun, and fired in the creature's general direction. Resident Sidney Gregg arrived just before the monstrosity left and saw it hop away



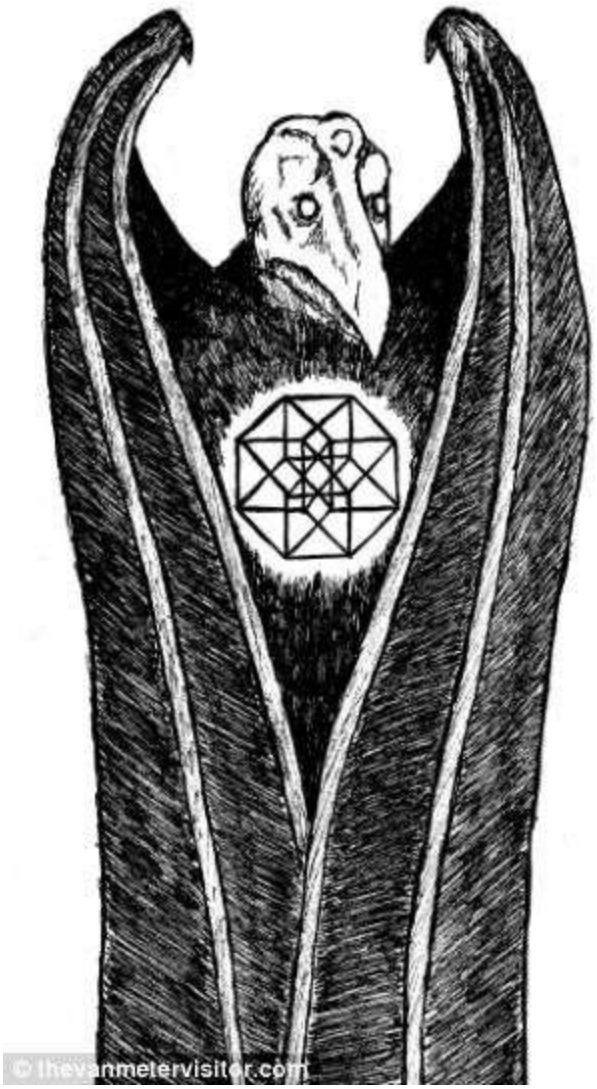
like a kangaroo.

The entire community was almost in a state of panic the following morning. A series of three toed tracks were discovered in one of the areas where the

monster had been seen the night before.

The Van Meter Visitor shot out a blinding
Light from a horn on its forehead

That night, the residents of the town were waiting for the visitor to return again. The foremen at a brick factory, however, heard an odd sound coming from an old abandoned mine shaft, and the creature emerged while a crowd gathered. It was also accompanied by a smaller creature, probably a “baby visitor.” Multiple guns were fired, but the shots seemed to have no effect. The following morning, the Van Meter Visitor returned to the old mine shaft and was never seen again, or, at least, it hasn’t been seen since. Since two creatures emerged from the mine shaft at one time, its possible there could be a whole colony of “visitors” living in (or possibly under) Van Meter!



Sketch of the Van Meter Visitor based on eyewitness descriptions, but, where’s the horn?

Pterosaurs: Alive After 65 Million Years?

A Pterosaur is an extinct creature that lived during the age of the dinosaurs. Pterosaurs were not dinosaurs; they were flying reptiles. Some were tiny, about the size of your hand, while others were as big as airplanes! Most people believe pterosaurs died out 65 million years ago with the dinosaurs and plesiosaurs, but
they may all be wrong.
Today, people report seeing
giant, flying creatures whose
description matches that of a
living pterosaur!

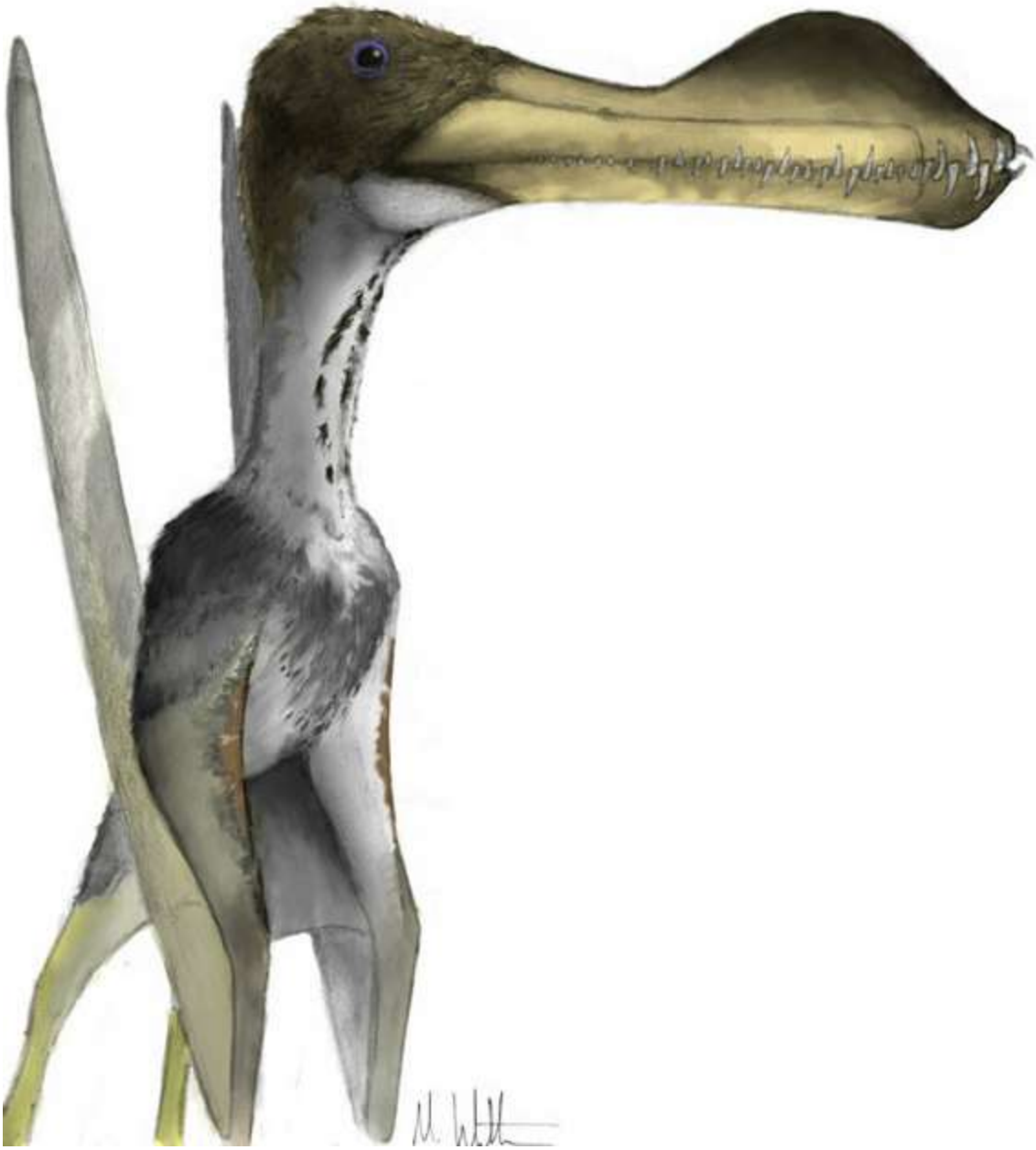
The
pterosaur Quetzalcoatlus(named after the Aztec god Quetzalcoatl) was as tall as a giraffe

with a wingspan the size of a small airplane

Around 1970, a 12 year old boy in Hawaii saw a pterosaur soaring through the sky, about 100 feet above him. This is his story:

“At first, I thought it was something manmade because I thought it could be some type of remote controlled pterodactyl glider. Its wingspan appeared to be about 30 feet across, if not more. It was light brown in color, with canvas-like skin and no feathers. When it passed in front of me, I realized it was a living creature because it flapped its wings several times. I watched it fly towards Olomana Mountain until it disappeared from sight. The total time of my sighting was 20 to 30 seconds. I doubt there was any model pterosaur that could appear or fly like that in the 1970s.”
Sightings of Pterosaurs go back far beyond the 1970s.

In the 1890s, cowboys in Arizona killed a giant flying creature with smooth skin, wings like a bat, and a face like an alligator. When fully stretched out, its wings covered the length of a barn. Some people think the creature killed is a Thunderbird, but birds don’t have smooth skin and bat-like wings, or alligator faces.



A pterosaur's beak could possibly be described as "looking like an alligator"

There were quite a few pterosaur sightings in Texas starting in the 1970s. On January 11, 1976, two ranch hands in Poteet, which is just south of San Antonio, saw a five-foot tall, birdlike creature standing in the water of a stock tank. "He started flying," Jesse Garcia said. "But I

never saw him flap his wings, and he made no noise at all."

Libby and Deany Ford saw a "Big, black bird" around the same time. "It was as big as me and had a face like a bat." Libby said. Later, as they looked through a book to find out what the creature was, they decided that it looked like a pterosaur.

A few weeks later, on February 24, three elementary school teachers saw a huge shadow cast over the road. They looked up and saw an enormous "bird" flying over them. It had a 15 to 20 foot wingspan. "I could see the skeleton of the bird through the skin or feathers or whatever," One of the witnesses, Patricia Bryant, said. David Rendon said "It just glided. It didn't fly. It was no higher than the telephone pole. It had a huge breast, different legs, huge wings, and a bony structure."

The three teachers looked through a book as soon as they got to the school and realized what they saw had looked like a living, breathing, flying reptile that was supposed to have been dead for 65 million years!

On September 14, 1982, at 3:55 a.m., James Thompson, an ambulance technician, saw a "large birdlike object" while driving along Highway 100. It passed over the road about 150 feet in front of him. He stopped when he saw its strange looking tail. This is the full description:

"I was expecting it to land like a model airplane, until it flapped its wings. It was a black or grayish color… It had a rough texture. It wasn't feathers, it was a hide-type covering."

The creature's body ended with a "fin"(probably a tail.) Its wingspan was somewhere in the 5 to 6 foot range. Thompson said it had indentations on the tops of its wings, and possibly the bottoms as well. There was a hump at the back of its head, possibly a crest, which some pterosaurs had, and it had "almost no neck at all."

Thompson, like witnesses before him, consulted a book to try to find out what he had seen. He had no trouble finding what he had seen in a book, but

there was one problem. What he had seen was supposed to be extinct!

Some pterosaurs, like Dimorphodon, had long tails

What could be live pterosaurs have also been seen in other states of the continental U.S.

In Ohio, pterosaurs have been seen several times. In 1967, for example, James Morgan and 4 others saw an animal resembling one of the flying reptiles fly past their homes near Middletown. It was dark in color, had no feathers, and had a 15 to 20 foot wingspan.

Four young men exploring an abandoned barn, also near Middletown, saw a pterosaur in 1991. They said it was 6 feet 4 inches tall and had leathery skin with no feathers. It watched them for a short time, and then flew away. They were so frightened that they ran off without grabbing their bikes.

In the summer of 2003, a man from Antwerp saw a long tailed pterosaur fly over the Maumee River. He said it was “huge, with a 4.5 foot tail, ten feet in total length.” The tail was long and skinny with a spade on the end. The next summer, he saw the same creature, or one that was very similar, near the same location.

Another witness from Antwerp supported the man’s accounts with the story

of her own sighting. She described it exactly as he had. She did add that its wingspan was about 10 feet, it was dark green in color, and had long, pointed teeth.

A minister in Mount Vernon, Ohio, saw a pterosaur on October 9, 2005. He said it had no feathers; its skin was leathery. It was gray in color. The beak protruded from its face, and did not look like a separate part of the head. Its wings were similar to a bat's. He also said it had a long tail with a diamond shape on the end. He said it was larger than a bald eagle.

A motorist driving on State Route 309 saw a pterosaur-like creature on June 26, 2010. She said it had no feathers and she could see the bones in its wings.

feathers and she could see the bones in its wings.

year-old boy saw one in Utah one night (no date given.) That night, the boy, his brother, and his stepbrother were outside staring up into the night sky. His brother suddenly started yelling about a giant bird he had spotted, and the animals in a nearby barn started acting strangely. His stepbrother followed Dallin (the brother) and started yelling about the "bird", too.

What they were yelling about was standing behind a tree, and the boy could not see what they were yelling about and thought they were trying to trick him. He reluctantly followed them.

"As I was reaching them, they said the giant bird had vanished." He said. He really thought they were fooling him now, and he climbed back up to where they had been. He said the other two were still amazed at what they had seen, and he was still skeptical, until he looked up in the air and saw it, too. He watched it for a minute until it disappeared, as if into thin air. He began wondering what he had seen, and saw it again a few minutes later. It appeared soaring above them, and then disappeared again.

In 2009, a young couple saw a pterosaur at 6 A.M. in Provo, Utah. They looked up into the sky and saw something they first thought was a plane. They then realized it was not a plane, because it made no noise. They saw a long, rounded beak and a giant body. They didn't think it had feathers. They said it was dark in color, probably a grayish brown or black. It had big, bat-

like wings. They said it was gliding and was the size of a small plane.

A woman in Slidell, Louisiana, saw a strange flying creature on October 10, 2013. She was outside and heard a strange sound, like a loud crow call, and saw a creature about the size of a bird, but it had no feathers and had teeth in its beak. She said it also had a long neck and “looked prehistoric.” She quickly left, because she was afraid the creature might bite her.

creature might bite her.

February 29, 2008) saw a living pterosaur on the night between July 18 and 19, 2007. He saw a huge creature fly over a shed, somewhere in the United States. He saw it between 1:30 and 2:30 a.m. This is his encounter: “I was sitting in a chair, when this animal came flying over the shed and into the field and I almost lost it. The animal I saw had an 8 to 10 foot wingspan, the wings were bat-like,

and the inside had a wavy type of look. The body was 5-6
feet in length, the neck was 1-2 feet, the head was about 4
feet long. There was a crest on the head about 2 feet in length, like that of a pteranodon. I don’t know how else to describe it.

Our contact had a sighting similar to that three years ago in the daylight. He saw a long tail, I did not see one, and all the Pteranodon pictures I’ve seen show a short stubby tail. The animal I saw was stockier compared to pterosaur drawings I’ve seen.

I only saw the silhouette of the animal and didn’t get to see any real details. It was only 20 feet away from me, our contact said the shed was 18 feet high, and it was flying probably 2 feet above that. The animal was gliding and

made no sound. It headed towards a nearby pasture. I shone my flashlight in that direction, but did not see the animal, so it must have kept flying.”
On Friday, September 4, 2009, a man saw a pterosaur

Cryptozoologist Scott Norman may have seen a Pteranodon, like the one pictured above, in 2007

at the Cooney Reservoir in Southern Montana. He said it was the “biggest flying creature I’ve ever seen.” It was flying about 50 feet above him and he estimated that its wingspan was about 20 feet. He heard the sound of its wings flapping. Two other witnesses may have also seen the same creature.

A man in New York saw a creature he described as a “dinosaur-flying-reptile.” The sighting occurred on a stretch of beach on Long Island. A number of other people also saw the animal, and one tried to get pictures of it. The witnesses at first thought it was a kite, but it did not move like a kite, and there was no string attached to it. The wingspan was 7 to 10 feet. It had a long beak and a point on the back of its head.

One witness from Dallas, Texas said “I’m very much a believer that they do still exist” after sighting an apparent live pterosaur.

On June 28th, 2013, an article appeared on the website Cryptozoologynews.com titled “Pterodactyl in the Corn Fields of Missouri.” A witness named Adrian, his son Anthony, and the rest of his family had been hearing weird noises in their corn field every night. “This sound gives me goosebumps.” He said. Anthony saw the creature and described it as 8 feet tall, with a “face like an alligator”, featherless, grey skin, and an 80 foot wingspan! His description sounds normal, except for the wings. I later learned that this report is fake. For more on that, see chapter 7.

Jonathan Whitcomb is a Cryptozoologist from California who investigates reports of live pterosaurs. He has written several books on the subject, including *Searching for Ropens* and *Live Pterosaurs in America.* He also writes on his blog and at www.livepterosaur.com.

These pictures could show pterosaurs shot down, if they are real, that is The bottom photo is widely acknowledged as a hoax

Now, the big question is, *could* pterosaurs have survived to the present day? To the eyewitnesses, the answer is *Yes!* But, if you go ask a scientist or anyone else, they'll probably say *No! Quit wasting your time with stuff like that!* We will never know unless someone can prove that pterosaurs are still alive, or the other way around. But, to some people, it does seem that these creatures, thought to have gone extinct millions of years ago, still soar in modern skies.

4 Wolfmen and Werewolves

It may be hard for some to believe this, and some people may not believe it at all, but creatures described as looking like "werewolves" are seen all over the United States, all the time. The creatures are described as bipedal, with big paws like a dog's for feet,(in one case, a footprint was about 8 inches long), a muscular body, a tail, and they are about 7 feet tall. They would almost look like a human, except for the tail, dog paws and head. The heads of these creatures are commonly described as looking like a wolf or German shepherd head.

The most famous of these creatures, which are commonly called werewolves, Dogman, manwolf, wolfman, etc, is the Beast of Bray Road. In the late 1980s and 1990s, people driving along Bray Road (which is located in Elkhorn, Wisconsin) reported seeing a creature they called a "werewolf." (For more on the Beast of Bray Road, see later in this chapter.) Since then, witnesses from other parts of the U.S. have reported seeing the creatures. In this chapter I will recount those stories, so the reader can decide for him/herself if "Werewolves" roam old roads and forests in the United States.

Chicken Stealers and More in Ohio

I will start off this chapter with some reports of werewolves from my home state, Ohio. There have been quite a few reports from this state, some not too far from where I live. The states surrounding Ohio have also had many sightings, and those will be discussed later in the chapter.

A family living in Norton, Ohio, had several run-ins with a werewolf in March of 2010. The son, Drew, said they had been hearing strange sounds around their home for several years, but things got scary when the family got a new rooster that wouldn't go in at night to sleep in the coop with the hens.

One night, while Drew was preparing for college finals, he heard something walking through the yard, on two feet, shortly after midnight. It was raining

outside, but he was still able to hear it growling as it was walking near their fence. The next night, he heard the same sounds. This time, however, he heard the thing running, leaves rustling, and then a loud thud against the chicken coop. He heard the thing growl and the rooster started clucking, then everything went silent. He heard the thing jump back over the fence and heard the rooster squeal like it was in pain.

He grabbed a flashlight and gun, and went outside to see what was going on. He scanned the fence line with the flashlight and saw the rooster. He saw it had something dark over its middle, and that something was the muzzle of some huge creature! He said it had two glowing eyes(the eyes of these creatures are said to glow yellow) and "seemed to look through me." "I'm a hunter." He said. "I see big animals in the woods, but they don't scare me like this thing did."

When the thing started to growl at Drew, he ran inside and told his mother, who also grabbed a gun and went back out with him. They found the rooster sitting on the other side of the fence, alive, and totally unharmed.
Drew's mother said she had also heard something walking bipedally in the driveway that night, but she assumed it was him. It could not have been Drew, however, because he was in the house when she heard the thing outside! Drew could not believe that the thing could mimic his walk. When the two started to walk back to the house, they heard a "blood-curdling howl" from somewhere nearby.

Drew heard the same howl two nights later, at a quarter to eleven. The howl was followed by the sound of something big jumping over the fence. That was followed by the rooster squawking. He and his mother both grabbed guns and went outside again to confront the monster. It wasn't there when they arrived. The rooster was once again on the other side of the fence, and it was unharmed, but all its tail feathers were gone. After that, they started putting the rooster in a cage at night.

The creature still prowled around Drew's house, however. He said it would make a high-pitched sound, like it was inhaling, that reminded him of some instrument(he couldn't remember what instrument that was.) He also felt like the thing was stalking people (particularly him) and now doesn't go out into the farmyard without a gun. He also said the thing would pound on the house.

He and his mother have also found footprints near their home.

That was not the first Dogman sighting in Ohio. In 2005, a woman called in to the radio show *Coast to Coast AM* to say that her boyfriend had recently seen a Dogman. They thought the creature could be related to a strange scream recorded near Liberty, a small town about 6 miles from Sycamore State Park. An animal expert, however, said the sound did not come from an animal (that "animal expert" probably said it didn't come from an animal just because they didn't know what animal it came from!)

A 39 year old woman who was visiting her sister in Mansfield, Ohio (which is only about an hour from where I live) saw *two* Dogman creatures (no date given.) This is what occurred.

One night during her visit, the two twins decided to take a walk around the park. As they rounded one corner, they stopped and saw the two creatures standing in the glow of a nearby porch light. "They looked like dogs but stood on their back legs like a human." The woman said. "We got scared and ran back to the house. We then got in the car and drove back to the spot, and they were still there. When the car lights hit them, they ran off on their hind legs like a human."

One night in 2009, a 62-year-old woman from Akron, Ohio, saw a Dogman running across the street near her home. "At first I thought it was a person with no clothes on, but as it got closer, I realized it was an animal. It ran on its hind legs, had a face that looked like that of a rat or kangaroo, had very short fur, and was over 6 feet tall."

After a few neighborhood dogs disappeared, the woman stopped going out at night. She also placed a camcorder on her window in hopes of capturing an image of the creature if it ever returns.

David Frost, from northeast Ohio, had a strange encounter in 2004. David runs the Center for Paranormal Research and Defense and was out patrolling with his team at about 12:30 one summer night. Three other members of the group were riding in a Ford pickup truck on a night with a full moon. (Coincidence?)

“We were approaching a hill,” he said, “and the next thing we know, there was this dog running towards us. It was on all fours and was the biggest dog I’ve ever seen. Its back came up to the middle of the truck’s window. It turned around in the road and stood on two legs and chased us for about 60 seconds. After that it ran back into the woods. Its back was like the back of a hyena. It was all black, and had pointy ears and a snout. It was very thin and muscular and had shaggy hair.”

On February 7, 2007, David encountered the same creature again. “We spotted it at about 2 a.m.” He said. “We saw it on the road called Pioneer Trail. We had seen lots of deer tracks at the end of another road we had been on, and it looked like the deer was in a panic or something. We stopped at the apple orchard on Pioneer Trail and saw a lone deer standing. We saw a big black mass behind the deer. It paid no attention to us this time. It was sniffing low to the ground. After a minute, the deer took off and it ran after it. We also found huge dog prints in the area.”

Years before any of those sightings, in 1972, residents in the area from Toledo to Defiance described a hairy, Bipedal Creature, 6 to 8 feet tall, with a wolf head. It had big paws for feet, fangs, and “ran like a caveman in the movies.” Police started taking the reports seriously after the thing clubbed a railroad worker with a 2x4 in Defiance.

In October 1972, two months after the first reports, Ed Miller and his wife saw a large, bipedal creature run through a field. They left, and three of their younger friends went to the spot and saw the creature. The Millers returned later and also spotted it again. “It would start running towards the car, then crouch down in the weeds so we couldn’t see it.” Mrs. Miller said. “It howled at us… it was a long, hissing sound.”

Gary Moore and his wife also saw the creature, and described it as “wide, black, and hairy.” It had huge, glowing eyes. Both witnesses agreed that it wasn’t a man in a costume.

Linda Godfrey, author of several books on Dogman sightings (and books on other cryptids as well) believes that the “werewolf” in Defiance was just a person in a werewolf costume.

In 2004, a fisherman saw an “extremely hairy person” hunched over behind a bush. He observed the face before he left, and said it looked like a mix between a dog and a human.

Dogman sightings in Ohio go even further back than the 1970s. Two witnesses saw a creature matching the Dogman’s description in Port Isabel, Ohio, in 1964. They said it was dark colored and 6 feet tall. The thing lunged at their car, and then something strange happened. They said the creature melted into a human form and ran off into the woods (on all fours.) They said it had fangs and “pig-like ears.” If the thing looked more like a human, it could have possibly been a Bigfoot (a young one, since it was only 6 feet tall, the average height witnesses usually describe if 7 to 8 feet), but Bigfoots don’t have pig ears.

In May of 2014, I contacted Joedy Cook, a Bigfoot researcher from Cincinnati, Ohio(see chapter one) who I happen to know. Joedy is currently investigating Dogman sightings and told me about the following encounters.

On November 9, 1968, a couple in Lorain, Ohio were awoken at 5:45 a.m. by a loud *thump* on the top of their trailer. After that, they heard something moving near the bedroom window. When they looked towards the window, they saw the thing’s face and its two front paws that were resting on the windowsill. The husband jumped up to look for his gun, but by the time he found it and returned, the creature was gone. It ran around the east side of the trailer, weaving from side to side, on two legs. It crossed two streets and then disappeared into the woods. To look in the window, the creature would have had to have stood about 6 feet tall. It was a grayish-brown color on its front side, and the rest of the body was a darker shade of that same color. The witnesses said it resembled “A large bipedal lion weighing about 600 pounds.” A lion would be much different from a Dogman, but the witnesses might not have had the clearest view of the face since it was 5:45 in the morning.(Source: Joedy Cook. HC addition #2900 source Jerome Clark and Loren Coleman *Creatures of the Goblin World.*)

Two people driving to West Virginia from Marietta, Ohio, on December 11, 2003, saw a strange creature off the side of the highway, looking away from them. They said the animal looked “Like a cross between a deer and a bear.” It stood about six and a half feet tall and had very long, extremely thin legs

that almost looked unstable holding up its huge body. Its torso, neck and head were covered in long black fur, but the legs were not. The witnesses could not see its feet because it was standing in two-inch tall grass. The creature turned and looked at them before they drove off. It had large, red eyes and a muzzle/snout that was long and slender, with a nose almost like a cat's. They didn't see any ears. (Source: Joedy Cook. HC addendum source Cryptozoology.com, sightings.)

A witness driving in a very isolated, forested, and hilly area in Trumbull County, Ohio on the night of March 1, 2006 saw a very large "creature or animal" in his headlights. It was on all fours, and the witness guessed that it was about 6 feet long from its head to its rump (not counting its bushy tail.) He said it stood at least three feet high on all fours. The creature jumped into the ditch, and the witness stopped to get a better look at it, shining his headlights directly at it. He said it was a "beautiful" gray and white color and had a face like that of a wolf. The creature did not make any threatening moves, but the witness did not get out of his vehicle because he said he felt like the thing "looked inside of him." (Other witnesses have also said this, see earlier in this section, page 89.) The creature then quickly ran into the woods and disappeared. (Source: Joedy Cook. HC addendum source Linda Godfrey.)

In January of 2010, Robin Vaughn from the Munroe Falls Paranormal Society contacted Joedy after a rash of "werewolf" sightings. The witnesses saw a creature matching the Dogman's description run out of a metro park and cross a road full of traffic.(If it was a hoaxer, they would have probably had the chance of being hit on a busy road.) Joedy went to the rangers at that park and asked about the sightings but their only response was "We don't like to talk about it." He told me that they know something is in that park, but the rangers don't know what it is.

Joedy left contact info with the rangers in case there were any more sightings. A week and a half later, he received a call from one of the rangers and met up with him the next morning. The ranger said he had seen the creature while he was getting into his vehicle. He saw, over to the left, what he thought was a dog, on all fours. He backed up so his headlights would shine on the "dog." The "dog" stood up on its back legs and looked at him for a moment. It then

walked away, still on its hind legs.

The ranger took Joedy to the area where he saw the Dogman, and they found fresh tracks in the snow, 168 in total. The tracks came out of the woods, went out of the park, and then went across the road. Joedy is still investigating in that area.

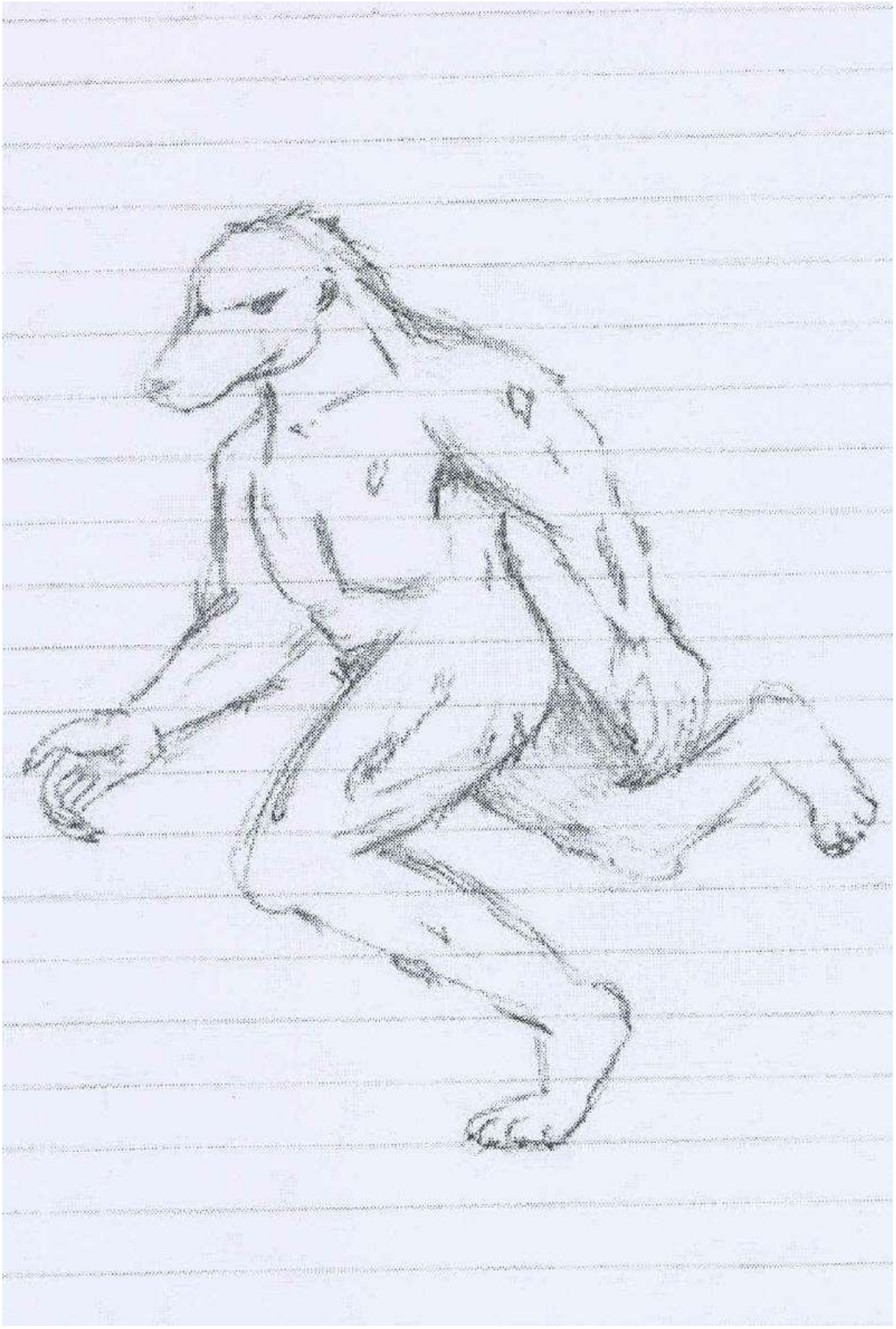
LEFT: Photo of one of the tracks Joedy Cook found near Akron, Ohio. Note the claw marks on the end. With keys for scale(Photo courtesy of Joedy Cook)

The ranger also drew a picture of the creature he saw. That drawing is on page 97.

Another photo of one of the Dogman footprints found (Photo courtesy of Joedy Cook)

The ranger’s drawing of the Dogman he saw (Photo courtesy of Joedy Cook)

DOGMAN



Another Drawing of the Dogman (Photo courtesy of Joedy Cook)

The Beast of Bray Road

In the late 1980s, people driving along Bray Road, which is located near Elkhorn, Wisconsin, reported running into a large, werewolf type beast. Linda Godfrey, a news reporter at the time, covered the stories when she heard about them in the early 1990s and called the creature "The Beast of Bray Road." The name stuck, and that's what Cryptozoologists have called it since.

The first Bray Road sighting occurred in 1981. One afternoon, as Marvin Kirschnik was driving on Highway 11, not far from its intersection with Bray Road, when he saw something standing on two legs behind a fallen tree. He stopped and moved over to the passenger side to get a better look. The creature had its paws on the tree, and was standing about 6 feet tall. It had a dog's face, but a body that looked like a human's. The two had a staredown for about a minute before Kirschnik left. He drew a sketch of the creature when he got home, and later made other representations of the animal to cope with the memory. Not wanting to be ridiculed, he kept the story to himself for 20 years. "I didn't tell anyone for two weeks at first, and when I told my wife she laughed at me." He said. Kirschnik later told his story on the TV show *MonsterQuest* and passed a polygraph test (aka a lie detector test.)

Five years after Marvin Kirschnik's sighting, in 1986, Diane Koeing, a factory worker, was heading home from Burlington. It was late, so she decided to use Bray Road as a shortcut to Elkhorn. She had not heard of the creature, so she drove through Bray Road with her doors unlocked, windows down, and had the radio playing. As far as she knew, there was nothing on the road to be afraid of. She was wrong.

As she was nearing an intersection, her headlights revealed a huge creature kneeling by the side of the road. She thought it was a person at first, until she saw that it had the head of a wolf. The creature seemed to be holding a dead deer in its "hands." The creature froze when her headlights hit it, and Diane

could see “a long muzzle, dark, shaggy fur, and ‘mean’ looking eyes.” She got the feeling that the creature didn’t want her around, and she quickly left. I bet she started locking her doors when she drove down Bray Road after that encounter.

A drawing of “The Beast.” Drawing by Linda S. Godfrey

In the late ‘80s and early ‘90s, sightings of the Beast of Bray Road really took off.

Scott Bray(who is a descendant of the Bray family, who the road was named after) saw a strange, canine-like creature on all fours standing by his rock pile. Doristine Gipson said she saw the same creature Diane Koeing had seen in 1986. Another person whose family had been longtime residents near Bray Road saw a huge, wolf-like creature in one of the family’s cornfields. One of her relatives found huge tracks in another field.

One man saw what he described as a huge timber wolf walking across his property. A girl said a huge, upright creature with a dog’s head had trapped her in a tree for over an hour. It jumped at the tree, but could not reach her.

Mike Etten saw the creature one moonlit night in March 1990. He said it was a large, bipedal, wolf or doglike creature, and was “sitting like a raccoon sits.” Etten did not realize that others had seen the same creature until two years later, when he read Linda Godfrey’s first news article on the monster.

One of the best known Bray Road sightings occurred in 1989. Lorianne Endrizzi was driving home late one night when she saw a strange creature kneeling on the side of the road like a human, and it had roadkill in its paws (There is a drawing of that creature on page 100.) Endrizzi was a friend of a

local school bus driver, and she picked up High School student Doristine Gipson everyday. One day, in the fall of 1991, Gipson told her bus driver about a strange creature she had seen. On October 31, as she was driving home along Bray Road, Gipson's front tires bounced, and, fearing she had hit some animal, possibly a pet, she stopped. As soon as she stopped, a large, bipedal creature came tearing out of a nearby cornfield. She said it *was not* a dog and was bigger than she was. She said it had dark brown hair and pointy ears, and she could see its muscles heave as it ran.

She sped away, and the creature followed her. It scratched the back of her car with its claws, and then ran back into the cornfield.

Later that night, as Gipson was going to pick up a girl from a Halloween party, she caught a glimpse of the same creature. When she picked up the girl, she also saw the creature. "Look at that thing!" the girl said. Gipson was glad someone else had seen the same thing.

In December 1990, a group of eleven year olds had a very scary experience. Heather Bowey was walking home through the high snow with a few relatives and friends just before sunset when she saw what she thought was a dog by a nearby creek. (That creek happens to wind across Bray Road.) The kids walked towards the dog to go pet it, but turned and ran when the thing stood up on two legs. It chased them for a little ways, and then cut off the chase and ran into a nearby field (which these creatures often do.) Linda Godfrey covered that article in her first news story on the "Werewolf", and said it could not have been a group of children lying, because Heather had told her mother about the incident two years before the story came out.

The creature disappeared from Bray Road for about 10 years after Mike Etten saw the creature on his farm, but years after Mike Etten saw the creature on his farm, but year-old Milwaukee area resident drove down down Bray Road with her teenage daughter and a friend hoping to see the Beast. The trio got lucky when they saw a seven-foot creature with a long muzzle, pointed ears, and dark fur step out of a cornfield and into the headlights. The creature was only about 9 feet away from the car when they saw it, so they had a very good view. The witness said it had longer hair on its back than the rest of its body and said the legs were skinny and canine. She also saw the muscles and skin under the fur on its chest. She said the eyes were "glittery and dark" and did not look like human eyes behind a mask.

The creature was hunched over with its forelimbs bent and was reaching forward. The three people in the car took off at this point, totally forgetting

the cameras they had brought with them. “We got the feeling we were not safe,” The witness said. “I felt that it was aggressive and would not hesitate to defend itself.”

In recent years, there have been a few sightings of the Beast at the end of Bray Road near County Road NN. In 2006, a woman saw a dog-like head in a cornfield with sixfoot cornstalks. As her headlights hit the creature, it ducked out of sight.

Pet cats in a mobile home park near Elkhorn began to go missing in 2007. That’s not weird, it’s was probably just coyotes, right? Nope. One evening, while a man was leaving a friends house, he saw a tall, dark, bipedal creature run across Geneva Street towards Bray Road. He also said the legs were “bent backwards.”

He decided to follow the creature in his truck, but lost sight of it before he got to Bray Road. His curiosity got the best of him at this point, and he drove up and down Bray Road until he spotted the creature again, walking towards a wooded area in thigh-high grass.

The man estimated the creature’s height at 7 to 8 feet tall, and had gotten close enough to see that it was covered in fur, and not dark clothes. He said it walked in a “hunched over” posture.

A couple from Elkhorn had a run-in with a strange creature on October 15, 2008. There was a full moon out that night, and they both saw a “dark, upright figure with ‘flowing’ fur run across the road. The figure came from the Bray farm and jumped over a guardrail when it got to the other side. They said it ran “hunched over” (like other witnesses have said) and was about 5 feet tall.

“We saw the back of it,” the woman said. “It didn’t jump over the guardrail like a deer, it used its hand or paw to lift itself over it. We both saw the same thing at the same time.” They went back the next day, but found no other evidence.

Dogmen in Michigan

Wisconsin has a lot of Dogman sightings, and so does one of its neighboring states, Michigan. Joedy Cook sent me a report of a sighting from May 6, 2006 that occurred near Lansing, Michigan. On that night, the witness was driving to his girlfriend’s house (which happened to be in a very isolated area.) He was driving on an old dirt road surrounded by fields (Dogmen seem

to like to hang out in them.) As he was driving, he saw something on a hill on the right side of the road. He stopped because he thought it was a deer and didn't want to spook it. When he stopped, a giant, human-like hand reached towards him and he saw a large silhouette. He said it was much larger than any man and had a wolf head. Its eyes reflected in his headlights. It just sat there, looking across the road. The creature then turned and looked at the witness. The witness was frozen in fear, and he and the creature sat staring at each other for about 20 seconds.

The creature then got up and started moving down the hill. The witness slammed on the gas and sped past it. He stopped when he got to a stop sign. He looked back and saw the thing sitting in the middle of the road, just staring at his car. He became even more frightened and took off again. He looked back one last time and saw the creature go into the adjacent field and move out of sight. (Source: Joedy Cook. HC addendum source: Linda Godfrey.)

On June 7, 2006, John Lyons and three friends went to check out an old school because they had heard rumors of a Dogman around there. Shawn, one of his friends, had been to the area before and had seen the creature. The three parked the car in front of the old building and waited.

"There were crickets all around," John Lyons said, "and all of a sudden they all stopped. I kept seeing the silhouette of something moving in the woods. I thought it was a deer until we shined the light on it. It was huge, must have been six-foot-nine! It was a humanoid, I think it was bipedal. I could see down to the knees. The hair was a dark brown or black, about an inch long, and covered most of the body. We saw one arm; one of my friends saw it. It was longer than a human arm."

He said they were about 50 feet away from the creature, which was partially hidden behind a tree. The trio became frightened and left. They drove away, but decided to go back a few minutes later. When they got back, they saw the building's motion detecting light come on and heard something run through the brush.

John said the beast had yellow eyes, a long, narrow snout, and it may have had a mane. It was very slender in stature, and he guessed that it weighed

about 210 to 220 pounds. The head was that of a canine. “I’ve seen pictures of Bigfoot,” he said. “And I don’t think this was a Bigfoot.” After a minute they left for the second time. One of John’s friends looked back and saw the thing go down on all fours. It chased them for a short time, and then it was gone.

John went back to the area following week. They once again saw a creature in the brush. “This thing was gray and big.” John said. “When I saw it, it was kind of squatting, almost like an ape sits.” They left after a few minutes, but, still curious, they once again returned for a second look. John got out of the car to get a flashlight out of the trunk, but by the time he got back his friends had lost sight of the creature. They then heard a high-pitched sound coming from behind the old school. They listened to the sound for thirty seconds before it ended. About 30 seconds later, Aubrey, one of John’s friends, heard something and the motion light on the building turned on. John sped out of the area and did not return again.

In 2007, Linda Godfrey (author of many books on cryptozoological topics) received a report from a man who had seen a Dogman creature in the Reed City area (which is where John’s sightings occurred as well). One cold January night, the man had snuck out behind an old barn to smoke. As he approached the barn, he saw what he thought was farm equipment. As he looked at it, the “farm equipment” moved! He said it looked like it had eyes and pointy ears. “I thought my imagination was running wild.” He said, “Because the barn was quite a ways from where I was and it was dark outside.”

He heard a noise in the woods, and the “farm equipment” turned and looked towards that area. The man then realized that he was looking at a living creature, and estimated that it was about 6 feet tall. He said it had “a doglike appearance; a pointy nose and really big pointy ears.” “I started backing away, because I didn’t want to take my eyes off this thing.”

Once he got inside, he grabbed a flashlight and told his mother what he had seen. She did not believe him, so he went back out himself. He shined the light where the creature was, but it was gone. He did notice that there was a three-foot-high drift where the creature was standing, so it would have had to have been four or five feet taller than that, putting the actual height at 10 or

11 feet! One of the man's friends saw the creature when she was over after he had his sightings. "It's as big as a buffalo and looks like a dog and I don't want to talk about it anymore!" Was all she said.

In November 2007, a hunter saw a strange creature at about 4:30 P.M. one day, as he was getting ready to leave. He saw two does walk into a clearing, and then saw a totally different creature following them. It was on its hind legs, and the witness was sure that it was not a bear. The creature was following the two deer, and dropped down to all fours and it went back into the woods. It was six feet tall when it was on its hind legs, had pointy ears, and had a face like a Husky's.

There are lots of Dogman sightings in Michigan

The hunter stayed where he was until his friends came to pick him up. They laughed at his story until he showed them tracks the creature left in the snow (also see pages 95 and 96 for tracks of a Dogman.) The prints the hunter found resembled a dog's but were broader. There were four toes, with two-inch claws. The claw marks did not touch the actual track. The front paws (from when it dropped on all fours) were 5 inches long, and the back prints were 7 inches.

The sightings did not stop there, however. The next day, the hunter waited to go hunting until about 2 in the afternoon. At about 5 pm, he heard three shots from about 100 yards away, and heard screaming coming from his walkie-talkie. He climbed out of his tree stand and saw one of his friends running towards him. His friend had seen the creature and said it was a dark color,

had yellow eyes, and left the same tracks.

The next day, the hunter and his friend saw nothing unusual. Their third friend, who went off by himself while the other two stayed together, also saw nothing strange.

They split up the same way on the 4th day, and the hunter and his friend saw it again. The creature ran into a clearing (standing upright), and looked directly at them. “It was almost grinning.” The hunter said. The two said it had arms as long as a humans and made a “growling/hissing noise” when it ran off. About an hour later, their other friend called them on the walkie-talkie and said “Um, are you guys over here in a werewolf suit? Because its not funny.” They heard five shots after that.

The two hunters raced to their truck and went to pick up their companion. Shaking, he got into the truck and showed them his gun. It had claw marks on it. He said the creature had charged him, and he fired off the first round almost accidentally to block the attack. That scared the creature into the woods, and he fired again to make sure it left. When the trio got back to their cabin, they found claw marks by the door and footprints. They packed up their belongings and left immediately, even though they were originally planning on staying three more days. They felt something ram into the back of their truck as they were leaving, but did not get to see what it was because it was already dark out.

In July of 2004, two 12 year olds riding around in a golf cart saw what they thought was a dog on all fours. They said the “dog”

stood up on its hind legs and ran off.

Jerry Falkner saw a Dogman in the summer of 1982 near Rochester. His sighting occurred on Sheldon Road, which is located by the Ball Mountain Recreation Area and the Stony Creek Metropolitan Park. His sighting occurred around 11 pm when he saw an upright, doglike creature (like the one pictured on the right) “checking him out”. He estimated its height at about 7 feet, because he was 6 foot and was standing on a pile of debris which made him eye level with the creature. He said its tongue lolled over one side of its jaw, it had thick shoulders, and it had a tapered waist. “It had a huge head and its fur was shaggy and dark brown.” He said. “The teeth were canine.”

Jerry dashed to the car where his friends were waiting to leave. The creature followed him, sometimes running on two feet and sometimes on all four.

Another sighting occurred in the Flint, Michigan area in the summer of 1973. A high school student was delivering fruit with his uncle around 11:30 PM. As they were driving up a hilly road to park the truck, they saw a large, dog-like creature on the side of the road. It paid no attention to them as they drove towards it.

As the headlights hit it, the creature stood up. It had a human body covered in dark fur, topped off with a wolf head, just your typical Dogman. The creature stared at them with eyes that reflected yellow. The student’s uncle stopped the truck where the creature had stood where they first saw it and grabbed a gun from under his seat. To the student’s horror, he got out of the truck. He

went over to where the thing had crouched down and found a half eaten deer carcass. The student watched for the Dogman the rest of the summer, but never saw it again.

On April Fools Day, 1987, Traverse City disk jockey Steve Cook released his recording “The Legend.” The song is about Michigan Dogman sightings, although some reports in the song are fictional. Cook has updated the song several times over the years. If you are ever camping in Michigan, play that song one night. It’ll creep you out!

Cook later teamed up with amateur filmmaker Mike Agrusa and created two films purportedly showing a Dogman. The film became known as the “Gable Film” and was thought to be real until the two men admitted that it was a hoax on an episode of *MonsterQuest.*

A frame from the Gable Film created by Steve Cook and Mike Agrusa.

The sightings in this section are only a fraction of all the sightings in Michigan. Many states surrounding it have a lot of sightings as well, but Michigan, Ohio, and Wisconsin are not the only states where werewolves are seen.

More Sightings From Across the U.S.

The rest of this chapter will cover reports from all the other US states. It will not cover all the sightings, because there are too many to fit into one chapter of a book.

MORE WISCONSIN REPORTS

Bray Road is not the only place in Wisconsin where people have seen werewolves. Another well-known Dogman in that state is “The Holly Hill Bearwolf.” On November 9, 2006, Steve Krueger was patrolling the roads, looking for road kill (he is a contractor for the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.) He found a freshly-hit deer that was not on his list at about 1:30 a.m. and threw it in the back of his truck. He climbed back in his truck and began filling out the paperwork. As he was writing, he felt the truck rock. Thinking it was the wind, he continued to write. Then the truck rocked again. Krueger glanced in the side mirror and saw a creature reaching for the deer in his truck. He said it had a wolf’s head with a long muzzle and pointy ears. It stood six to seven feet tall and was very thick in its neck and upper body, reminding Krueger of a bear. He hit the gas and sped off. He heard two things hit hit pavement as he left, one being the deer and the other being an ATV ramp he kept in the back of his truck. He drove for several miles, but then decided to go back and retrieve his ATV ramp. When he returned to the spot, the creature, deer, and ramp were gone. Krueger told the local sheriff because he thought the public should know about a large, possibly dangerous animal in the area.

Krueger may have seen the same creature again in 2007. He was once again picking up a dead deer when he saw the creature, walking on four legs. “It didn’t seem to notice me.” He said. “It back was about four feet high, it was the biggest wolf I’ve ever seen.”

Did Krueger see the same creature both times? Maybe. Some witnesses say the Dogman they saw walked on all fours and on two legs. Is it possible he saw a giant wolf the second time? He contacted DNR officials and they said that wolves travel down from the Great Lakes, and some people keep wolf hybrids as pets. Either way, it would still have to be a pretty big wolf to have a back that was four feet in the air!

The day after Steve Krueger’s sighting in 2006, Mike Lane went to the area to look for footprints. He was expecting to find large, human-like tracks like those reported with a Bigfoot, but instead found canine tracks. The tracks had been made by something bipedal. Lane also heard about a second hand sighting on October 25, 2007. A man told Lane that his brother had seen something big running along railroad tracks near Highway 175. It was

running on four legs and he thought it was a bear. The creature then stood up on two legs and ran off very quickly.

Rick Selcherk saw a large, bipedal creature running across the road in 2004. He could not identify it as anything he had ever seen. He said it looked like a combination between two animals and had a short tail.

In 1996, two people driving on Scenic Road (not far from Holly Hill Road) at 2 a.m. saw two of the creatures. Both witnesses described the creatures as "tall, hairy, and quick."

Enough on the Bearwolf, though. Let's move on to some other reports from Wisconsin. Another, particularly creepy creature called "The Wausau Whatzit" was encountered in the late '80s and early '90s. A boy (he was 13 at the time of the first encounter) and his friends were out in one of his parent's fields, sitting around a campfire, eating pizza, and throwing snowballs at each other. Suddenly, a strange beam of light appeared in the field and started moving towards the boys. The group got spooked because they could not identify the source of the light, but calmed down when it disappeared.

Three years later, the boy and another one of his friends saw three of the strange lights above a creek. He and his friend saw those lights several times over a span of a few nights. The boy also saw a large, glowing, oval shaped object (a UFO?) floating towards Lake DuBay one night at 1:56 a.m. Six minutes later, the object came back and shot off towards the creek, leaving a streak trail behind it.

He would still camp out with his friends on his parents property, and a strange light would illuminate the campsite from time to time. They also saw an odd, triangular head looking at them from a nearby cornfield (again, Dogmen seem to like hiding in cornfields.)

Not long after that, one of the boy's friends said something rammed into the side of his pickup truck. He said the creature followed him home and tore gardening tools off of a shed, but he never saw what it was. Another one of his friends saw the creature cross the road, running on two legs. He said it was six feet tall and grayish in color. After it crossed the road, it dropped onto all fours and ran towards the river.

A week later, the boy and his friend Jason saw the creature standing in the middle of the road. It stared at them with yellow eyes and had pointy ears. The boy said the thing had a human like body, canine legs, and tan, oily skin. It was very thin (they could see its ribs) and it had no

tail. The boy said, that after seeing the creature, he thinks

the UFO he saw could have been picking it up(or maybe dropping it off?) Strange lights and UFOs have been associated with Bigfoot and Dogman sightings before, so maybe it's possible the boy and his friends saw an alien werewolf.

Another well known Wisconsin Dogman encounter occurred in the summer of 2003. Katie Zahn from Janesville, Wisconsin, and three friends were out in the 168-acre nature preserve called Avon Bottoms. They went out there that day to look for a bridge that was supposed to be haunted. There was also an urban legend saying that a scientist was killed by some breeding experiment in that same area. Perhaps that is what the four saw that day.

Katie's two male friends had brought BB guns with them, and they went off to do some practice shooting in a field while the girls stayed behind. The two girls noticed a large paw print with claws in the mud by the road when they got back there, and it was only the first sign of what was to come.

Soon after the boys left, they came running back, screaming at the girls to get back in the car. Then Katie saw what they were running from; a giant, wolf-like creature running after them on its hind legs. "It was six or seven feet tall and was covered in fur," She said. "Its gait was kind of wobbly." The four humans jumped into the car, and the Dogman ran off into the woods.

The teens decided to still go look for the haunted bridge after that chase. They got to the bridge, and , figuring that the beast was gone, got out and looked down at the creek. To their amazement (or perhaps horror) they saw *three* of the creatures kneeling by the creek. They were drinking from their "hands" like a human, not lapping water like a dog. When the creatures saw the teens, they waded into the creek and started coming towards them. The four jumped back in the car and left.

Katie did not talk about her story for many years, but later took a polygraph test (aka a lie detector test) and passed on an episode of *MonsterQuest.* The conclusion of the test showed no indication of deception, and Katie has stuck to her story to this day.

Another sighting of multiple Dogmen occurred in October of 1984, when Rick Renzulli saw two of the creatures cross County Highway ML at 5 a.m.. As Renzulli stopped at an intersection, one of the creatures dashed in front of him. It was on all fours and its back was as high as the hood of his truck. He estimated the length of the creature at 7 to 9 feet. He said it was three or four times the size of a St. Bernard he used to own. He said its eyes reflected in his headlights and it looked angry. “I thought of evil.” He said.

Another, smaller creature then ran across the road after the first one. Renzulli said that both of the creatures had bristles on their back and had long legs.

There have been many sightings of the Dogman in Wisconsin, but the first may have occurred in 1936, when a guard at the St. Coletta School for Exceptional Children saw a strange creature. The guard, Mark Schackelman, saw what he thought was a large animal digging on a mound. The creature was as big as a man, had dark fur, and was kneeling in a way that a four-legged (quadrupedal) animal could not. It fled on two legs when it saw Schakelman.

The next day, Schakelman found big claw marks where the creature had been digging. That night, he armed himself with a flashlight and saw the creature digging at the mound again, near midnight. The creature did not run away again, however. It turned and face Schakelman, who said it was six feet tall and smelled like rotten meat.

Schakelman shined his light at the creature and could see powerful arms that ended in hands with thumbs and fingers. It was very muscular and had a canine head. The creature made a growling sound (Schakelman later described it as a “neo-human voice”) that sounded like it was saying “ga-dar-rah.”Schakelman became terrified at this point, and felt that he needed to pray. As he prayed, the creature walked off into the night. He worked at St. Coletta for many more years but never saw the creature again.

In one last report from Wisconsin, the werewolf seen apparently had a friend, and that friend was a vampire, no less. In April of 1981, a police officer from Mineral Point, Jon Pepper, saw a tall, thin, pale colored man wearing a trenchcoat near Graceland Cemetery. Pepper tried to question the man, but was unable to catch up to him because of his ability to jump high fences. No one really believed Pepper, though, because he was known for his practical jokes. He had once walked around Mineral Point in a gorilla suit.

Six years after Pepper's "vampire" encounter, 15 to 20 people in Mineral Point saw your normal Hollywood style werewolf in broad daylight. According to one witness, it transformed as it ran. It could not have been Pepper playing a prank, however, because he had moved away, but there was a rumor saying he had left his gorilla suit with a friend.

OKLAHOMA ODDBALLS

It was a nice autumn night in 1981. Two men were traveling along Highway 3 from Atoka to Antlers, Oklahoma. As they were nearing the Muddy Boggy Bridge, which is over the Muddy Boggy River, they saw a strange creature on the right side of the road. They said it was just standing there, not moving, and it was on two legs. They said it was 7 feet tall and looked like an Olympic athlete and was covered in short, black fur. They compared it to Anubis, the Egyptian Jackal-Headed god of the dead.

That is only one of the many Dogman sightings from Oklahoma. Another sighting occurred in 1993, when a man named Brandon and his friend were driving in a Toyota on a secluded dirt road. They stopped to complain about life, as all people do, when they heard a strange noise. The creature had red eyes, and the man said he felt like it looked through him.
He said it was 7 feet tall and had to bend over to look in the window. "It was black and had a furry head and pointy, erect ears." Brandon said. "It was strong enough to shake the car. I expected him to bite me and have his mouth cover my shoulder, I mean entire shoulder blade to mid-chest, that's how big its mouth was." He tried to get into the passenger seat, but couldn't because he had his seatbelt on. When he looked back over, the creature was gone. His friend did not see the creature, but had felt the truck rock.

The last Oklahoma sighting I will mention (there are still many others,

however) occurred one summer evening in 1998. It was about 11 p.m. when the two witnesses saw the creature when they were driving home. The driver swerved and barely avoided hitting a large creature holding onto a tree and leaning forward, like it was going to jump on the car. They were certain it was not a bear.

A DOGMAN IN NORTH DAKOTA

In 1997, an 11 year old girl playing a hide and seek game with her friends that they called "Ghost in the Graveyard." She was hiding in a ditch with a friend to avoid being found by who was playing the ghost. Her other friends got up to run to the base, and she did as well, until she heard a strange sound.

The sound was coming from the out of bounds area, and she wondered if one of her friends had gone that way. When she turned to look in that direction, she heard a growl. The creature then stood up. The witness said it was much taller than she was, had a face like a husky, and was dark-colored. She said it moved its head from side to side as it looked at her and had almond shaped eyes.

The two stared at each other for about 45 seconds before the creature reached a hand toward her that "looked like a deformed wolf paw." The "hand" had very long claws on its "fingers." She jumped out of the ditch and ran to where her friends were, and lied to them when she told them what it was, saying that it was a crazy person who lived down the street.

She tried to convince herself that it was a bear or a human, but couldn't. She said it did not look like a bear and had dog legs, which humans do not have.

WERECAT-DOGS IN CALIFORNIA

Lee Ehrlich, a paranormal investigator, first saw a Dogman in 1988 on Mount Wilson Toll Road in California. While he was riding his mountain bike, he said he almost ran into an upright creature that reminded him of a satyr or devil. He said:

"It was standing there, upright. It had pointy ears, a wolflike snout, and hinged legs. It looked like a lynx but was the size of a doberman. It held its

front legs like a *Tyrannosaurus Rex,* had hair like a hyena, and was grayish brown. It had a black frill running down its back from its head to its tail. It went down on all fours, took a bounding leap, and then disappeared."

Ehrlich saw a second creature that same year in Malibu Creek State Park. It was standing with its front paws hooked over the top of a dumpster. He said it looked exactly like the first one, but its color was different. He told park rangers about it, and they said others had seen the same animal and that it was some type of lynx.

His final encounter occurred in Rustic Canyon Park when he was exploring an abandoned building. He began to hear footsteps and thought it was another human following him. Every time he stopped, the footsteps stopped. When he started to move, it started to move. Finally, he used a fake step maneuver and tricked the thing into revealing its position.

"It was gigantic, bipedal, werewolf sized." He said. "It was reddish in color, and very intelligent. These things are cats."

Are the creatures Lee Ehrlich saw just lynxes? Are they giant, bipedal cats that happen to look similar to a Dogman, or are they real werewolves? We may never know the answer.

Drawing of the creature Lee Ehrlich saw, dubbed a "Doberman

Lynx"by author Linda Godfrey. Drawing by Linda S. Godfrey

"Werewolves" are seen in many other states not mentioned yet in this book.

Those states include Texas, Kansas, New York, Maine, Minnesota, Maryland, Virginia, and others. Is it possible that there is a population of giant, bipedal canines in the United States? Are all the reports hoaxes, pranks, or misinterpretations? I don’t think so. Werewolves seem to be just another type of Cryptid creature living in the United States.

5 Strange Beasts Galore: The Dover Demon and More

There are some monsters seen in the U.S.A. that can't be put in any category. Some of these creatures are described as frog-men, others are giants, too big to be a Bigfoot, and still another is described as a creature with wings, hooves, a serpent tail, and a horse head!

These creatures are seen in every corner of the US, and come in many shapes and sizes. Some have horns, some can swim, some can climb walls just by sticking to them, and others suck all the blood out of farm animals, and leave the rest of the body unharmed. This chapter is about these creatures, ranging from Chupacabras, to Lizard Men, Frog Men, and mutant monsters.

Dover Demon

The Dover Demon is perhaps one of the strangest creatures in Cryptozoology. For two nights in 1977, the strange entity was seen around the town of Dover, Massachusetts.

The first sighting occurred on April 21, 1977, at 10:30 p.m. Bill Bartlett, Mike Mazzocca, and Andy Brodie were driving on Farm Street in Dover. As the teens drove past a structure called the Farm Street Wall, Bill Bartlett noticed something moving out of the corner of his eye. He thought it was just a dog or cat; until his headlights hit it, that is. He quickly realized that the creature he was seeing was no household pet. As he approached it, it turned its large, watermelon shaped head and looked towards him with two large, glassy eyes. The eyes had no eyelids and Bartlett described them "like two orange marbles." He also said the creature had no tail, its head was about the size of its body, it had long, spindly arms, legs, hands and feet, and had hairless, peach colored skin. The skin looked like it had a rough texture.

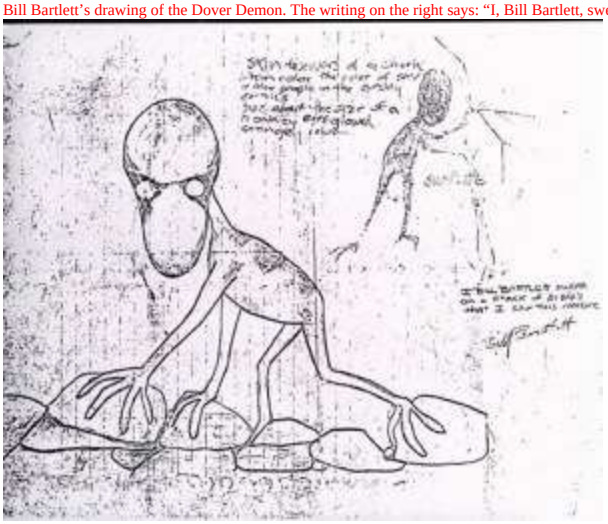
Bartlett said the creature stood about three to four feet tall and "was shaped like a baby's body with long arms and legs." The being had been walking along the rock wall when the car lights hit it, and its long fingers curled around the rocks. The sighting only lasted a few seconds, and neither of Bill's

friends saw the creature. Mike and Andy both said Bill was “pretty scared.”

They drove on for a few more miles, but eventually Bill’s friends convinced him to go back. They returned to the spot, but did not see the creature again.

When Bill got home, he drew a picture of what he had seen to show his friends. “I draw a lot.” He said. “I train myself to remember what I see as soon as I see it.”

Bill Bartlett’s drawing of the Dover Demon. The writing on the right says: “I, Bill Bartlett, swear on a stack of Bibles that I saw this creature”



Just two hours later, another teenager, John Baxter, left his girlfriend’s house and began walking home. It was now after midnight, on April 22, 1977. As Baxter was walking up Millers High Road, he saw someone approaching him. The thing approaching him was short, so he assumed it was someone he knew, M. G. Bouchard. He yelled “M. G., is that you?” No response. He continued walking towards the figure until it stopped. At this point, Baxter was only about 25 feet away from the creature. He also stopped and called out “Who is that?”

He couldn’t get a good view of the creature, so he took a step forward. The being then ran into a gully by the road. John could hear it running and followed it. He saw it standing on the other side of the gully, and its feet were “molded” onto a rock it was standing on. The creature was also leaning on a tree a few feet away, and its fingers wrapped around the trunk.

Baxter said the body reminded him of a monkey, and the head looked “like a figure 8.” Its eyes looked directly at him, and after a minute he began to feel

uneasy and left, fearing that the creature might attack. He ran back up to the road where a couple picked him up and drove him home.

Baxter drew a sketch of the creature when he got home (like Bill Bartlett had done) before he knew of the other encounter. Baxter said that he was unaware that Bartlett had seen the creature until five days later, and the same creature is pictured in both drawings. When he heard about Bill's sighting, Baxter showed him his drawing. Bill was amazed because it was the same creature he had seen.

RIGHT: John Baxter's drawing of the Dover Demon

The next night, Will Taintor and Abby Brabham were driving down Springdale Avenue. They were 2.4 miles away from where Bill Bartlett had his sighting. Abby saw a strange creature crouched on all fours by the side of the road. She said the body was thin and monkey-like, and it had a large head with no ears, nose, or mouth. She said the thing was hairless and had tan or beige colored skin. The area around the creature's eyes was a lighter shade than the rest of the body, and its eyes glowed green. The other witnesses described orange eyes, but Abby insisted that the eyes of the creature she saw were green.

Will, who was driving, caught a quick glimpse of the creature before they drove past it. All he could make out was something with a large head and a tan body, and he said it had its arms up in the air.

Abby became frightened and urged Will to speed up. She later described the creature in more detail for him since he had only gotten a quick glimpse.

That was the last sighting of the Dover Demon. What did those students see? Theories ranged from an alien, a baby moose, or just a prank. The moose theory was put forward in 1998 by Martin S. Kottmeyer. A baby moose,

however, does not look at all like the creature described by the witnesses.

A baby moose, which does not match the description of the Dover Demon, cannot climb up the sides of walls, and cannot walk on two feet

The sightings were investigated in 1977 by Cryptozoologist Loren Coleman, author of books such as *Mysterious America* and *Monsters of Massachusetts* who lived near Dover at the time. He gave the creature the name “Dover Demon” and it has stuck since. The Dover Demon has now become a very well known Cryptozoological creature.

The Green-Clawed Beast

It was August 21, 1955. Mrs. Darwin Johnson and her friend Mrs. Chris Lamble decided to go for a swim in the Ohio River near Evansville, Indiana. They had only gone about 15 feet in to the river when Mrs. Johnson felt something grab her leg. She said it felt like a hand with “furry”(perhaps she meant scaly) palms. Whatever it was had come up from behind her, grabbed her knee, and pulled her under the water.

She kicked at whatever it was and got away from it. She barely had time to go to the surface and get a breath before the creature pulled her under again. Both women were now screaming at the creature, which they could not see, and it only left when Mrs. Johnson hit Mrs. Lamble’s inner tube. When the two got back on shore, they saw that Mrs. Johnson had scratches and a green stain on her leg. They could not remove the stain for several days.

Later, Mrs. Johnson said she was visited at her home by a man who identified

himself as an Air Force Colonel. The “colonel” listened to the story and took many notes, and told Mrs. Johnson not to talk about the incident again.

Strangely, the encounter in the Ohio River sounds like a real life Creature From the Black Lagoon encounter. That movie had come out only one year before the incident in the river. Is it possible that the “Green-Clawed Beast”, as it is called, is a real life “Creature?”

Bishopville’s Lizard Man

Another reptile-man began being seen in Scape Ore Swamp, near Bishopville, South Carolina, in the late 1980s. Now commonly called the Lizard Man of Scape Ore Swamp, the Bishopville Lizard Man, or simply the Lizard Man, it was described as a tall, green, reptile-like creature. The catch: it walked on two legs and looked like a man!

In 1986, George Plyler, a resident of Bishopville, was working with three other men to put up a hog pen. As he was working, Plyler felt like something was watching him. He thought it might be a deer, so he turned to look. What he saw was no deer!

He saw a strange creature “with a face like a human’s, red eyes, and arms that hung down like an ape’s.” The two looked at each other for a few seconds, and then the creature turned and ran off. He was able to see the creature better as it ran off through the brush, and described it in more detail:

“The features were more like a human than any animal I have ever seen. The arms were a little bit longer than
human arms, and the legs were long and skinny. Its body was kind of similar to a lizard, except for the head, and it had no tail.”

A little over a year after Plyler’s sighting, George Holloman spied the strange creature near the Scape Ore Bridge.

It was early October, and Holloman had decided to ride his bicycle around the back roads of a little town called Browntown. It was quite warm outside that day, and he became thirsty. Holloman stopped by the Scape Ore Bridge

to get a drink of fresh water. It was a nice night, and he was in no hurry to do anything, so he also lit a cigarette. As he stood smoking, something across the road caught his eye. He thought it was a dead tree that had been struck by lightning at first, but realized that it was no tree when it stood up, just like a man would.

He said it was 7 to 8 feet tall, “was black in color, and may have been covered in hair.” The creature looked over at Holloman for a minute until a car approached. The car’s lights hit the creature, and caused its eyes to glow. “They were big and red.” Holloman said. As the car approached, the creature disappeared into the swamp.

Holloman hopped onto his bike and pedaled home as fast as he could. He tried to figure out what he had seen, but couldn’t. He didn’t tell anyone about the encounter for two weeks, because, like many people who have seen cryptids, he didn’t want to be thought of as a fool or a crazy man.

After Plyler and Holloman told the community about their sightings, another man, Frank Mitchell, said he had also seen the creature.

In May, 1988, Mitchell was flying his plane, and saw something very out of the ordinary when he was going down the runway. “I was going down the runway, and that’s when this ‘thing’ walked in front of me. It didn’t run, it kinda had a lope in its walk. It looked at the plane as it walked across the runway.”

Mitchell tried to get a better view of the creature as the plane took off. “I couldn’t tell if it was scaly or hairy, but it was grayish brown and had a face like a monkey’s.” He made a quick turn when he got in the air, but by the time he got back around to the spot, the Lizard Man was gone.

Mitchell did not tell anyone about his encounter at the time, but told police when he saw other reports in the newspaper.

The most famous Lizard Man encounter occurred on June 29, 1988. Christopher Davis and his father went in to the sheriff’s office to talk to sheriff Liston Truesdale about Chris’ encounter with the monster on the 29th. Chris was working the night shift at a McDonalds and was heading home

around 2:30 a.m. He was driving along Browntown Road, which goes through Scape Ore Swamp, when one of the tires on his ‘76 Celica popped. Chris stopped and got out of the car to grab the spare from the trunk.

The moon was bright that night, so Chris could see just fine. He got out the spare tire and replaced the flat one. As he was putting his tools back in the trunk, he noticed something about 30 yards away from him. That something was moving towards him, swinging its arms. He said it was a “large, humanoid creature with glowing red eyes,” and was “green, ‘wetlike’, about 7 feet tall, and had three fingers.”

Chris began to panic as the thing kept coming towards him, and jumped back into the car. He took off, and the thing ran after him… and jumped onto his car! Chris could see its fingers, which ended in black claws, sticking down from the windshield. The creature let out a grunt and Chris hit the gas. He swerved the car, and the creature fell off.

That was not the end, however, because the Lizard Man continued to chase him!

Chris was going 35 miles an hour by the time the thing caught up to him again, and tried to get onto the car for a second time. “I looked in the rear view mirror and saw it, and that’s when I heard it hit the roof.” Chris said. He swerved madly and thought the creature fell off. It had, but he did not stay around to check, and sped out of the swamp.

When he got home, Chris jumped out of the car, ran into the house, and started crying. When he father asked him what had happened, he said he had seen something 7 feet tall, with red eyes and three fingered hands. His father went outside and saw scratch marks on the roof of the car, and one of the mirrors was bent. Chris told sheriff Truesdale that he had heard stories of some weird creature for two years, but never thought too much about it. After hearing the story, sheriff Truesdale asked Chris to make a sketch of what he had seen. Chris drew a quick picture on a piece of notebook paper, and it did indeed show a humanoid figure with three fingers on each hand.

SUMTER (SC) ITEM 20 JULY 1988

Christopher Davis recounts experience with alleged seven-foot tall lizard

Bumps in the night?

Lee County seeks 'lizard' with bad attitude

RIGHT: Chris Davis' drawing
LEFT: Newspaper article and picture of Chris Davis

Truesdale began to try to figure out what Chris Davis had seen, and eventually investigated many of the Lizard Man sightings. If it was dangerous, he wanted to know.

On July 14, 1988, the Bishopville sheriff office got a call from a couple reporting car damage. The couple said their car had been “mauled” by something the night before. It could have been a Lizard Man, but hair and footprints were found on the vehicle. Two deputies went to their home to investigate. The deputies arrived at the Waye’s home on the outskirts of Browntown (which is not far from Bishopville, George Holloman saw the Lizard Man in that area in 1987) and Tom and Mary Waye showed them their beat-up car.

The chrome molding on the car had been ripped off the fenders. The sidewalls of the car were covered in scratches and dents. The hood ornament had been broken off, the antennae had been bent, and wires from the motor had been ripped out. The deputies inspected the damage, and said it looked like something had actually chewed on the molding.

The Wayes also showed the deputies clumps of reddish hair and muddy footprints on and around the car. The deputies decided to call sheriff Liston Truesdale (mentioned above) to the scene. “That’s what started this whole thing for me.” Truesdale said.

Truesdale also called in a biologist from South Carolina’s Wildlife and Marine Resources Department to examine the hairs. The biologist thought the hairs could be from a Red Fox, but did not explain how a fox could have caused all the damage on the car. The biologist (along with Truesdale) also examined the footprints and concluded that they, too, were from a fox. They discovered some larger tracks about 25 yards from the car, and determined that they were from a large quadruped or biped, possibly a bear (or a Lizard Man!) Black Bears have been seen in Scape Ore Swamp, so one of those creatures could have caused the car damage.

Truesdale and the biologist knew the larger tracks were *not* from a fox, but not everyone agreed on what they were from. James Knight, another local man, also looked at the tracks and said they were unusual because they lined up “in a straight procession typical of human steps.”

So, what happened to the car? A fox could have been in the area, but could a fox have ripped off chrome molding and broken the ornament? A bear could have, but they found no bear tracks close to the vehicle, if the tracks they

found further away were really from the Lizard Man.

While Truesdale was investigating, he learned that several other people in the Browntown area had reportedly seen a green (or possibly brown) creature, seven feet tall, with red eyes (which sounds just like other descriptions of the Lizard Man.)

After those first encounters, the news of a “Lizard Man” in Bishopville spread. Tons of people started coming to Browntown and Bishopville, jamming the roads in Scape Ore Swamp, hoping to get a glimpse of the monster. To make things even more crazy, the WCOS-FM radio station from Columbia offered a *one million dollar reward* for anyone who could bring in the “lizard thing” alive.

That news brought even more people to the roads in Scape Ore Swamp, and it also brought hunters. Many people with rifles and other weapons flocked into the swamp, hoping to catch the creature and claim the million $ reward. One 20 year old, Tony White, who had brought rifles with three friends, was asked if he would spare the creature’s life if they managed to catch it, and collect the reward. His replied saying he would, and “I won’t have to work a day in my life!”

Sightings of the Lizard Man did not stop after hunters and news reporters arrived. On July 24, 1988, two teenagers, Rodney Nolf and Shane Stokes, arrived at the sheriff’s office to say that they had seen the creature while driving with their girlfriends. They were driving along Highway 15 when the “large, muscular animal” dashed across the road in front of them. The creature was moving on two legs, and they watched it for a few seconds before it jumped a fence and ran into the woods.

A few hours later, the sheriff’s office received a call from a Browntown resident who said they had heard strange howls in the woods. Mike Hodge went out to the area to investigate, along with Wayne Atkinson. They slowly drove along the back roads, searching the area with a spotlight. As they were driving down Bramlette Road, they found several 40-gallon fuel drums that had been crushed and scattered along the road. The officers got out of the car and found several broken tree branches that were 9 feet in the air. They also got the feeling that someone (or maybe *something)* was watching them.

There were heavy woods on each side of the road, so a Lizard Man could have only have been a few feet away and still be hidden from sight. The officers figured that the fuel drums had been left by someone or had fallen out of a truck, so they got back in the car and kept driving. After they had gotten further down the road, they made a U-turn and returned to where they found the fuel drums. What they found amazed them; there was a row of footprints crossing the road that had not been there before.

The officers stopped and got out to look at the tracks. They could see a heel, front pad, and three toes. The prints were about 1½ inches into the ground, were 14 inches long, and were 7 inches across at the widest part. The stride was over three feet. The officers did not think the tracks were fake.

TOP OF NEXT PAGE: Cast of a Lizard Man track

One of the officers tried to make a footprint in the road, but could not. It was starting to get dark, but the officers decided to follow the tracks anyway. They scanned the area with their flashlights and followed the tracks for about 300 yards before they
disappeared into the brush. They decided to turn back at this point, because they figured the thing that made the tracks was still in the area.

At this point, the news had become very interested in the Lizard Man story. The *NBC Nightly News, PM Magazine, Unsolved Mysteries,* the *Today* show, Fox, and CNN all wanted to hear about the Lizard Man. Many journalists for various magazines and newspapers also came to Bishopville for the same reason.

On August 5, 1988, Kenneth Orr, who lived in Florence (close to Bishopville) was driving on Highway 15 at 6 a.m. when he saw a creature that was “5 feet 9 inches tall, green, and it had a lizard like tail.” Orr grabbed his .357 Magnum revolver and told the creature to “halt.” He fired a warning shot, and then fired straight at the creature. Orr said that one shot hit the creature in the neck, and it fell against the car. It regained its strength, however, and ran off into the swamp.

Orr collected blood and scales from the area and gave them to sheriff Truesdale. Truesdale did not believe Orr’s story, not for a minute. He could tell the scales Orr had given him were from a fish, and the drawing Orr gave him looked like similar to a cartoon Lizard Man on T-Shirts that were being sold.

While Orr was in the sheriff’s office telling Truesdale his story, one of the sheriff’s Deputies went out to inspect his vehicle (which happened to be a camouflaged Toyota, and, to top it off, was outfitted with fake machine guns.) They found the gun Orr said he had shot the Lizard Man with, and found out that he had no permits for it! He could only carry the gun if he had it in a glove box or trunk, and he had it sitting in the passenger seat. Truesdale let Orr leave (he said he had a doctors appointment at the Shaw Air Force Base), but he returned on August 12 and admitted that his report was a hoax. “He wanted to keep the Lizard Man mystery alive.” Truesdale said.

The next sighting of what could have been the “Lizard Man” everyone was talking about in Bishopville occurred on August 26, 1988. A high ranking official of the Army Corps of Engineers named “Mason Phillips”(not his real name) was driving along McDuffy Road with his wife when he saw a brown colored creature walking on two legs near Ashwood Lake. He said it moved very quickly and was “eight feet tall, with a tail that didn’t quite touch the ground.” His wife was sleeping at the time, but he woke her and she saw the creature as it disappeared into the trees. Truesdale sent officers to the area to search for tracks and other evidence, but they were able to find none because of a heavy rain that Sunday.

The creature seen in Scape Ore Swamp seems to have taken a two year break, and was seen again in 1990. On July 30 of that year, Bertha Blythers and her five children had just left Bishopville and were heading to their home in

Camden. They were nearing Hickory Hill Road at about 10:30 p.m., and Bertha's daughter, Tamacia, saw the creature lunge towards the car, almost appearing out of nowhere. "I was just driving," Bertha said "And I saw this big brown thing jump at the window. I sped up and went to the other side of the road to keep him from dragging my daughter out of the car."

Johnny, one of Bertha's sons, saw the creature behind the car once they had passed it. It was walking across the road like a human would, but was hunched over, and was much larger than any human. Bertha later told the sheriff's department that the creature was "tall, wide, and had two arms like a human, and was covered in hair." Johnny described the creature as "Six feet tall, or more, covered in brown hair, and had two big eyes."

What the Blythers saw that day *does not* sound like a Lizard Man (if it was, it would have had to have been a Lizard Man that hadn't shaved in a while), but it does sound like a Bigfoot (see chapter 1). It was most likely a real creature, and not a hoaxer, unless the hoaxer wanted to risk his or her life by jumping out in front of a car going 25 miles per hour.

In September 1990, a vice president of a bank in Florence said he saw a creature that fit the Lizard Man's description while hunting in Scape Ore Swamp.

In the fall of 1991, Brian and Michelle Elmore nearly hit a large animal that reminded them of a gorilla while driving to Browntown. The witnesses were very frightened by the encounter and didn't tell anyone until 1992 for fear of ridicule. Brain described the creature like a gorilla, "but a lot bigger."

Michelle described the creature as a brownish-black color, about 7 feet tall (possibly more), said it had long arms, and said it ran like a gorilla. She said it was a Sasquatch.

What the witnesses saw in the 1990s sounds more like a Bigfoot than a Lizard Man; perhaps Bigfoot decided to move into Scape Ore Swamp and kicked out the Lizard Man. The Lizard Man did return in the 21st century, however. In 2004, a news report came out saying that the Lizard Man had tried to drag a girl into a river (also seen *The Green-Clawed Beast,* p. 124.) There is no other information on this story, however, and many think it never

actually happened.

In 2005, a woman who lived about 80 miles from Scape Ore Swamp reported seeing *two* creatures that looked like the Lizard Man one evening. She called the police, but they found nothing when they arrived, nothing at all. They began to question her sanity, and just said “these things just like to check in on humans from time to time” to comfort the woman.

The Lizard Man returned to Bishopville in 2008 to gnaw on Bob Rawson’s car. Bob walked out one morning to find his car scratched, bitten, and just beat up. The Rawsons called police, who thought the whole thing looked very similar to the car damage reported 20 years earlier. The Rawsons also noted that several cats that slept on their porch had disappeared.

Was the Lizard Man back? Some people thought so, but some said it was just a normal predator who had damaged the car and eaten the cats. They said that the thing had come to eat a few kitties, who ran under the car for safety. The predator then scratched at the car to try to get its dinner.

There have not been any Lizard Man reports after the car damage in 2008, but that does not mean it is gone (if it was even there in the first place.) Scape Ore Swamp would be a great place for an unknown creature to live undetected, and still holds onto the Lizard Man mystery.

Mystery turned to money… Lizard Man T-Shirts and hats

Frogmen in Loveland

Other creatures similar to the Green-Clawed Beast and the Lizard Man have been seen in Ohio. The creatures have come to be known as the “Loveland Frogs” or “Loveland Frogmen”, and were described as short beings with frog faces.

The first sighting of the Loveland Frogs occurred in 1955, when Robert

Hunicutt saw three of the beings at 3:30 in the morning. He saw the creatures standing under the bridge that spans the Little Miami River, and described them as 3 feet tall, grey skinned, they had lopsided chests, wide, lipless mouths, and wrinkles on their heads instead of hair. One of the “frogs” held a rod shaped device above its head that shot sparks. Hunicutt watched the creatures for about three minutes and noted a “smell like fresh cut alfalfa, with a trace of almonds.”

About two months later, Emily Mangone and her husband, who lived in Loveland, woke to the sound of their dog barking and went outside to see what it was barking at. What they saw was a three-foot being that they said was covered in twigs and foliage. It left when they turned the yard lights on, but returned when the lights were shut off.

One of the frogmen was seen again on March 3, 1972, when police officer Ray Shockey spotted the creature in the middle of the road. He thought the creature was a dog at first, but realized it was not when it stood up. He said it was 3 to 5 feet tall, had a frog face, and probably weighed about 75 pounds. He also added that it had leathery skin. When the creature saw Shockey, it jumped over a guardrail, ran down an embankment, and disappeared into the Little Miami River.

Shockey reported the sighting and returned with another officer two hours later (which would have been at 3 A.M.) They found the area where something had slid down the embankment to the river.

Another police officer, Mark Mathews, saw one of the creatures two weeks later. The creature he saw was also sitting in the road. When he got out of his car to investigate, the creature stood upright. It started moving slowly towards the guardrail, and stepped over it, keeping its eye on Mathews the whole time. Mathews fired at the creature, but missed.

Years later, when Mathews was asked about his story, he said that what he had seen was not a four foot frogman, but just a lizard. He said he fired at the lizard in hopes of validating Shockey’s story. Was the creature really just a lizard, or did Mathews change his story to avoid ridicule? Shockey was ridiculed after he told his story, and, after a while, stopped talking about it. Perhaps Mathews did the same.

Some sources say that a farmer riding a bicycle saw one of the frog creatures in 1972, but there is no other information with that report.

Another farmer also saw the strange frog-men in 1972. While working in his field, the farmer spotted four of the creatures. He described them as having greenish-gray skin, large, circular eyes, and mouths lined with sharp teeth. The farmer watched the creatures until they walked towards the river and disappeared into the brush.

Loveland Frog sightings once again stopped for a number of years, but the creatures were seen again in 1999. In September of that year, a witness reported seeing a "big green thing" in the Little Miami River.

On July 4, 2002, Jude Tillery and a friend, Johnny H., reported seeing a "big frog lookin' dude" walk out of the river. Jude said that the thing raided their food before it left. This story is probably a hoax, however, because the two friends were drinking and Tillery said Johnny sprouted "lots of warts" after the encounter.

The frog men that live in the Little Miami River by Loveland have not been seen in recent years, or, at least, no one has reported seeing them. Maybe we will just have to wait a few more years before the frog men come back, because the period between the clusters of earlier sightings was in the 20 year range.

Chupacabras

The Chupacabras (spelled the same singular and plural) is one of the most famous cryptozoological creatures. The creature (whose name mean "goat sucker") has been reported in Puerto Rico, Mexico, Spain, Guatemala, and, of course, the United States.

Chupacabras reports first came from Puerto Rico in 1995, when people from throughout the island reported strange animal deaths. Witnesses described a four to five foot tall creature that had legs like a kangaroo (in one instance, the witnesses said the Chupacabras jumped 20 feet!), spines or quills on its back, a lipless mouth, red eyes, three fingered hands, and fur or leathery skin. Some people say the Chupacabras can also fly, although it is argued over

how it can do this. Some say it has wings, but others say it levitates and defies the law of gravity.

The Chupacabras may have actually first appeared in 1975, 20 years before the first well known sightings. Farm animals, including cows, ducks, goats, and geese, were found dead and entirely drained of blood. There were also reports of people seeing UFOs in the sky. The creature causing the animal deaths became known as “The Moca Vampire” and may have been a Chupacabras.

Twenty years went by, and then the vampire struck again. This time, people began calling the attacker the Chupacabras. The beast (which some thought was an alien) terrorized Puerto Rico in 1995 and 1996. It wasn’t long until the creature moved out of that area and appeared in other countries.

In his book *El Chupacabra,* Dennis McMillan recounts the tale of the time when his son-in-law Dustin and his brother Justin saw a Chupacabras in Bruner, Missouri. The brothers lived close to a church, and, one night after the prayer meeting, returned to the church to turn off the lights in the basement that they had forgotten to shut off. As they walked across the church parking lot, they saw a strange animal lurking in the shadows. They described the creature as about 3 feet tall, and it had a nose like the old TV character Alf. The creature never came out of the shadows, and the boys quickly returned home.

Phosphorescent bright colored spines like appendages that run over the body from head to the end of the back
Spines colors change constantly from red to black to yellow, to green to orange, to violet.
Body covered by fingernail like with darker spots.
Strong feet with claws.
4 to 5 feet tall.
Big slanted red eyes.
Small holes for nostrils.
Toothless mouth.
No ears, only auditive holes.
Thin arms with three fingered hands - with claws.

Chupacabras drawing, based on eyewitness descriptions in Puerto Rico

Another, similar creature was seen by a 15 year old boy named Tim in Illinois in 1989. Tim was walking home from a friend's house when he saw the creature on a hill. He described the creature as "bald, with huge eyes, clawed hands, and it was about 3 or 4 feet tall." He ran home and called the creature a "demon."

On March 10, 1996, a resident of Sweetwater, Florida named Teide Carballo saw an "inhuman shape" moving across her property. A few weeks later, another Sweetwater resident, Olimpia Govea, found 27 chickens and 2 goats that had been killed by some unknown assassin. Local officials told Olimpia that her animals had been killed by dogs, but she said they were not. What dog would leave a bloodless carcass? She asked. She also added that her son and daughter-in-law had seen a shadow similar to the thing Teide Carballo had seen pass by their bedroom window. A month later, the Govea family heard a loud noise in the middle of the night and saw lights outside that looked like they were coming from something trying to land on their property. A UFO?

March 11, 1996 saw Florida's third animal killing. This time, however, a woman had actually seen the attacker. She said it was not a human and had a strange way of moving. She watched the object until it disappeared in a row of banana plants.

Now, the Chupacabras was beginning to get famous in Florida as it had done in Puerto Rico. Songs about Chupacabras were heard on radios, video games featured the creature, T-Shirts were made, and a restaurant even named itself after the goat sucker.

Police in Tucson, Arizona received a call on May 1, 1996 from a man named Jose Espinoza. Something had broken into Mr. Espinoza's house. He described the intruder as a creature with large, red eyes, a pointed nose, and shriveled features. According to the witness, the Chupacabras had entered the home, slammed a door, and jumped on his seven-year-old son before hopping out the window. Footprints and handprints were found on the walls. Most of the handprints, however, matched those of Mr. Espinoza's son.

Espinoza may not have been lying, however, because, on May 2, a dozen goats and a sheep were found dead. Whatever had caused the deaths had also

wounded several cows. The rancher on the farm saw the creature later and shot it with a rifle. Despite the wounds, the Chupacabras continued to go to the farm night after night.

Donna, Texas was the next town in the United States to have the displeasure of being visited by the Chupacabras. Sylvia Ybarra found her pet goat dead in the yard in the middle of May. It had puncture wounds on its neck.

A man living in California said a Chupacabras had bit his hand while he was sleeping. He felt a tugging on his hand and woke up to see a shadowy figure disappear from the window. He was puzzled because there was nothing but an alleyway outside his window (he lived in a third story apartment.) How could the Chupacabras have gotten up there and just disappear? Did it fly? Possibly. Many people who saw the Chupacabras in Puerto Rico in ‘95 and ‘96 said it could fly by levitating or moving the quills on its

back.Chupacabras sightings continued into the new century.

One night in 2000, a woman named Mary C. saw a strange creature in Maryland. While driving with a friend, she saw a pair of glowing eyes beside a tree. As she approached the tree, the thing jumped out into the road and hopped across it like a kangaroo. Mary’s friend did not see the creature, so she shrugged it off as an injured dog. That is, until a few days later.

Mary and her friend were driving down the same road, nearing the same tree, when they saw the creature again. Mary described it like this:

“It had rear legs like a kangaroo, and the front legs were up like a kangaroo’s also. It was no kangaroo. It had a snout like an anteaters and its red eyes reflected in the headlights.”
Mary also said the creature was hairy and about 3 or 4

feet tall. It stared at the car (probably in fear) as it ran across the road. “I had never seen an animal around here that looked like that and neither had my friend.” Mary said.

Another Chupacabras was seen on a golf course in New Jersey that same year. A man saw the animal on the golf course in Brigantine and said it was

three feet tall and had spikes on its back. He assured the news reporters that he hadn't been drinking.

Another man saw a strange creature on the same golf course later that year. He and some friends went back and searched the area with flashlights. One of them saw two red eyes. The creature was crouched down at first, but then stood up and ran off. They found footprints in the area that they said were not from a fox.

Another creature people call a Chupacabras is seen in the United States. This creature looks like a canine and is commonly called a Texas Blue Dog. One of the "Blue Dogs" was captured by a couple in Texas in 2014. Jackie Stock and her husband caught the creature one Sunday night and put it in a cage. The creature had claws, was hairless, and looked like a Texas Blue Dog. Brent Ortego, a Wildlife Diversity Biologist with Texas Parks and Wildlife looked at the creature and said it was some type of canine.

Jackie and her husband later decided to have the animal euthanized. Mike Cox, a spokesman for the Texas Parks and Wildlife department, said they would do nothing else and "our agency does not believe chupacabras exist anywhere but in the imaginations of some", the usual thing for some wildlife official to say about any cryptid. (The same thing happened with a Dogman report from Ohio.)

The "Chupacabras" captured in 2014

What, then, is the Chupacabras? Is it some type of monkey, as some have said, is it a mangy coyote, or is it an alien? Or, is it just some regular, but unknown, animal? It has to be something, because animals don't just randomly die and have two puncture marks appear on their neck.

Watch out for the Giants!

Imagine running into a huge ape-man, bigger than a Sasquatch, with feet almost 24 inches long. These types of creatures are seen all over the world, and are called “True Giants” by some Cryptozoologists. Native Americans called the creatures “Big Men”, “Chickly Cudly”, “Kookwes”, and many other names.

True Giant reports in America go all the way back to the 18th century. One extraordinary (and deadly) encounter with a True Giant occurred in the Okefenokee Swamp, located on the Florida-Georgia border. A hunting party went after the giant after footprints 18 inches long and 9 inches wide were found in the swamp. A party of nine armed men went into the swamp to track down whatever made the footprints. What they ran into was a 13-foot tall

giant.Five of the men had their heads ripped off by the

creature before the rifle shots killed it. The four survivors quickly left to avoid any other angry giants. They said the stride of the creature was “a trifle over six feet.”

An even older report comes from 1793. A man near the Saluda River on the Bald Mountains saw an animal 12 to 15 feet tall, shaped like a human being, except for the head. The creature had no neck. It had feet like a negroe, which were about 2 feet long and hairy. It had large eyes and the hair on its head was about 6 inches long. The man also said that the creatures (yes, more than one) had recently tried to kill several people, resulting in some of them being shot. The people living in that area called them Yahoo, but the Indians called them Chickly Cudly.

The name “Chickly Cudly” has some significance in True Giant and Bigfoot reports. It is sometimes used as a name for the creatures, and comes from the Cherokee name *kecleah kud-leah*, which translates as “hairy man.”

The Cherokee Indians in the southern United States also knew of another giant they called Tsulkalu. The Cherokee said that the giants were twice as tall as them, and lived very far away “in the direction in which the sun goes down.” A group of Tsulkalu once visited the Cherokee, who accepted them

as friends, and the giants stayed for some time, but then returned to their home in the west.

Explorer Samuel de Champlain (who also saw Champ in 1609) was ridiculed for listening to stories about the giant called Gougou from the Gaspe Indians. He described the monster as “of such a size that the masts of our vessel would not reach his waist. He devours many savages, and those who have escaped tell me that his pouch is so large he could fit our whole vessel in it, when they speak of him it is with unutterably strange terror, many have assured me they have seen him.”

Huge beings known as Stone Giants were known in New York. They were described as huge in stature, and used stones as weapons. They were depicted as cannibals and were said to fight with each other often, uprooting the tallest trees to use as weapons.

Giants have also been reported in the Western United States. One of those giants was seen in 1902 in Idaho. It was described as eight feet tall, covered in hair, and it looked like a human but “possessed the fierceness of a wild beast.” The giant left behind footprints 22 inches long and 6 inches wide. The tracks only had four toes (which is actually common with True Giant tracks.)

Other stories told of a “Sasquatch” that was 15 feet tall. The Sasquatch would hurl trees at people it ran across.
You may be thinking that all the True Giant reports are a century old or just Indian legends, but that is not the case. One report from the western U.S. occurred in Montana in 1977. Three men said they were chased by a fifteen foot creature on August 20th of that year. They first spotted it with the aid of a flashlight and saw it move into the woods. The three witnesses ran to the car at this point, and saw the “animal” walk across a clearing. One of them fired at it to scare it off, but the opposite happened. The giant charged them, and was only 20 feet away by the time the car was started and they drove off.

The Twawhabitts, a giant cannibal from the American west

Zollie Owens spotted a silver-haired, 12-foot creature near Hallsville, Texas, in 1976. A smaller, female creature with red hair stood next to it.

15-inch tracks were found in Corinth, Mississippi in 1976. Photographs of the

tracks clearly show four toes. Similar tracks, also 15 inches long, were found in Lincoln County, Mississippi eleven months later.

A giant, hairy creature was seen near Fort Gordon, Georgia, in late 1979. The creature was 10 feet tall and left huge tracks.

Tracks were found in Washington County, Pennsylvania, in 1994. They were 17x31 inches and had 4 toes. The distance from the heel of the left foot to the heel of the right foot was 6 feet.

A Horned Hog Monster

The Wisconsin Hodag is a classic tale of a cryptid hoax. The story of the creature dates back to 1896, when a lumberjack in the Rhinelander area (who was also a known prankster) named Gene Shepard said that he had captured a "great, hairy, black beast" living near Rice Creek. Shepard said he put a pile of rocks in front of the Hodag's den to trap it, and put a chloroform soaked rag inside the den to knock it out.

Shepard then proceeded to take his Hodag on a 10 year tour, keeping it in a dimly lit room. When people came to see it, he moved it around with wires to make it seem real. Many people believed that his Hodag was real, and believed it ate only white bulldogs that were fed to it on Sundays.

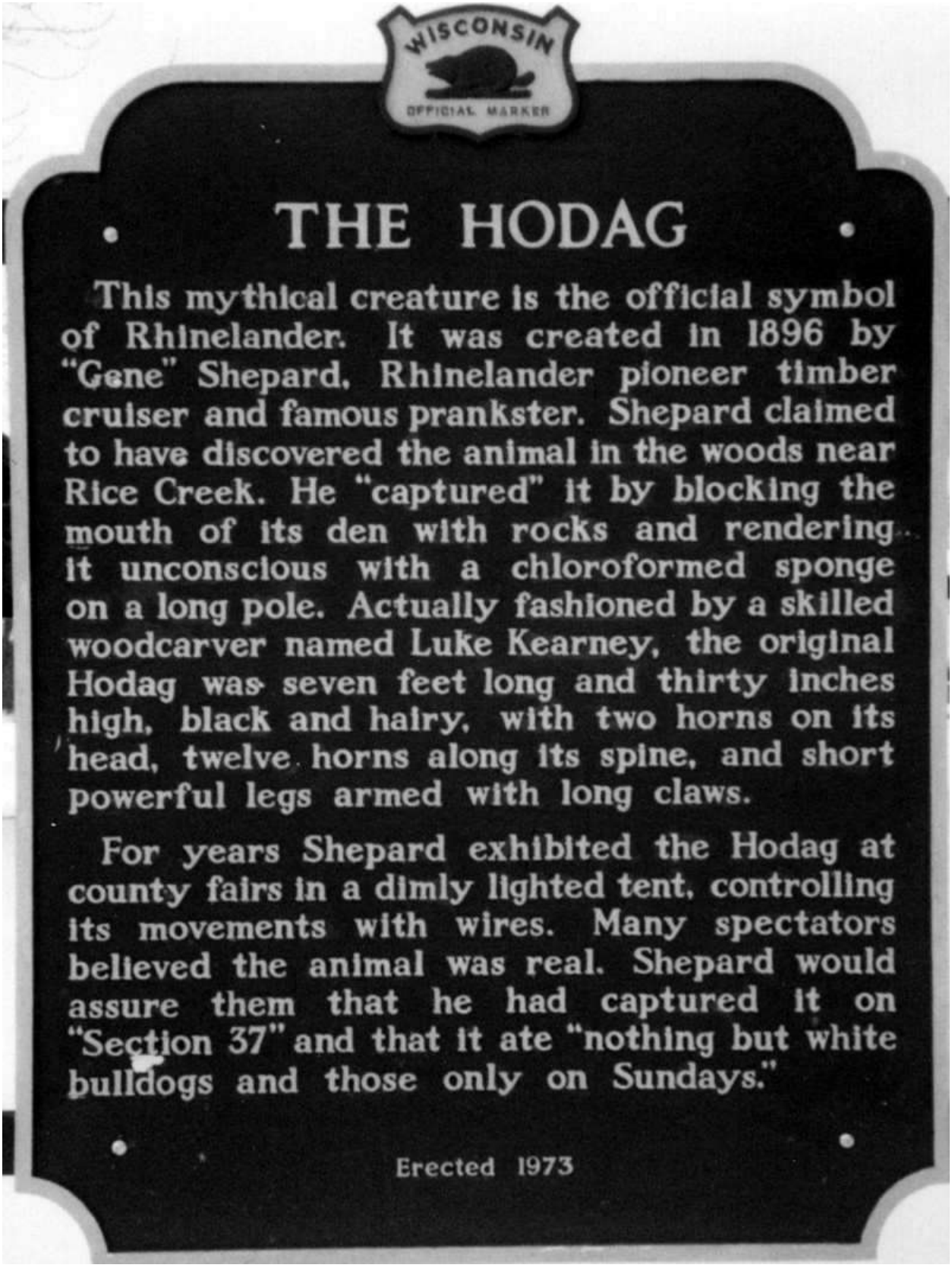
After a while, people forgot about the Hodag. To bring back the popularity, Shepard staged a photo and "recapture" of the creature.

Shepard's fake Hodag photograph

Residents of Rhinelander remember the Hodag over a century after Shepard's

first hoax, and the town now has a Hodag statue (whose color was changed from black to green) and a marker about the creature.

Hodag statue in Rhinelander
RIGHT: Hodag Marker


WISCONSIN
OFFICIAL MARKER
THE HODAG
This mythical creature is the official symbol of Rhinelander. It was created in 1896 by "Gene" Shepard, Rhinelander pioneer timber cruiser and famous prankster. Shepard claimed to have discovered the animal in the woods near Rice Creek. He "captured" it by blocking the mouth of its den with rocks and rendering it unconscious with a chloroformed sponge on a long pole. Actually fashioned by a skilled woodcarver named Luke Kearney, the original Hodag was seven feet long and thirty inches high, black and hairy, with two horns on its head, twelve horns along its spine, and short powerful legs armed with long claws.
For years Shepard exhibited the Hodag at county fairs in a dimly lighted tent, controlling its movements with wires. Many spectators believed the animal was real. Shepard would assure them that he had captured it on "Section 37" and that it ate "nothing but white bulldogs and those only on Sundays."
Erected 1973

The Jersey Devil

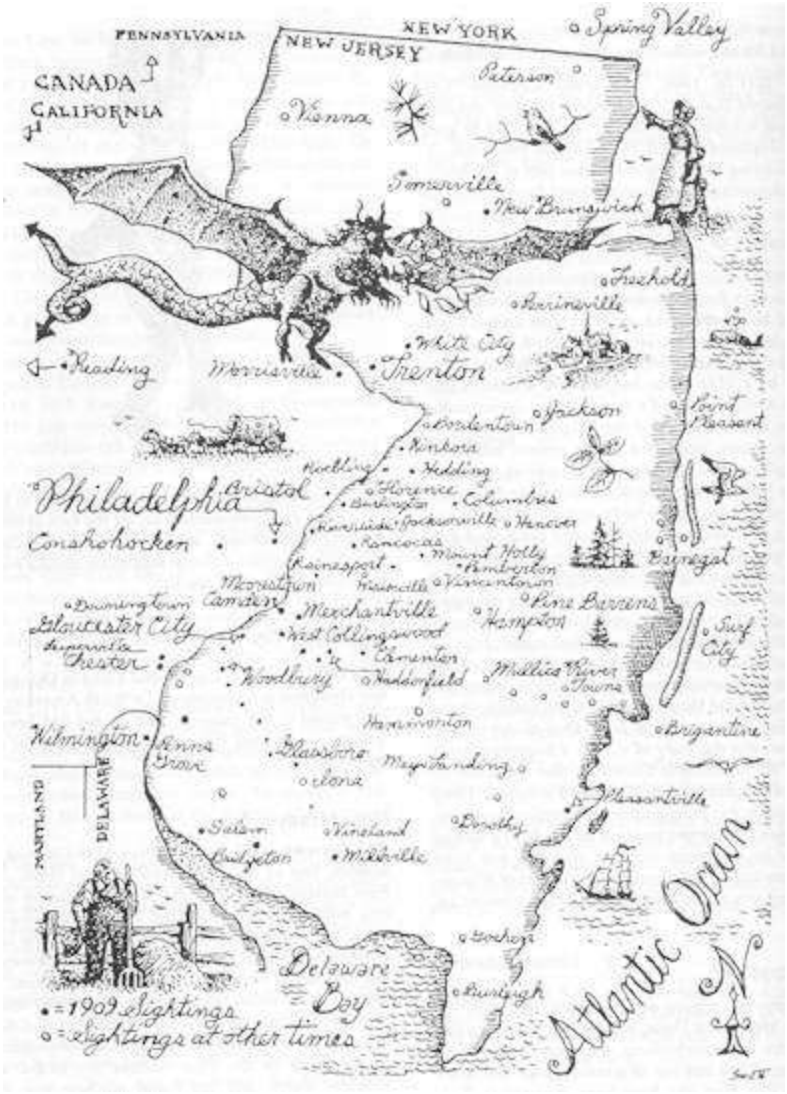
New Jersey's most famous cryptid is the crazy creature called the Jersey Devil. The Jersey devil legend dates back to 1735, the year the creature was supposedly born. The creature seems to be a mix up of several different animals; it has the head of a horse, horns like a goat, batlike wings, a kangaroo body, a forked tail, and hooves. The creature also has short front limbs that end in claws. Witnesses report a height between three and a half and seven feet, and the creature seems to prefer flying over walking.

There are many variations to the story of the creature's birth, but the most common one to hear revolves around a "Mother Leeds" in 1735. Mrs. Leeds was unhappy about having a thirteenth child, and cursed it, saying "Let this one be a devil!" When the baby was born, it sprouted wings and flew up the chimney, to live the rest of its days in the Pine Barrens. Some accounts say the Jersey Devil killed Mrs. Leeds' nurse, some say he killed her, but others say his first meal was a few children in the woods.

The Jersey Devil was seen now and then throughout the 17- and 1800s, when it was seen before the
Revolutionary War, eating livestock, warning people of the Civil War, and was fired at with cannons (with no apparent effect). In 1901, folklorist Charles Skinner wrote that the Jersey Devil would soon be forgotten with the coming of a new century, but he did not know how wrong he was.

It was the third week of January, 1909. The eastern side of the country was in a panic
because of one thing, the Jersey Devil.
During that week, the creature was seen
by thousands of people in at least 30
towns in multiple states. The Devil was
first spotted in and around his normal
home, the New Jersey Pine Barrens, but
quickly made his way throughout the
Delaware Valley.

The first sightings of that week
occurred on Saturday, January 16 and



the early morning of Sunday, January 17. That night, the Jersey Devil was seen in Woodbury, New Jersey and Bristol, Pennsylvania.

Thack Cozzens, from Woodbury, was leaving the Woodbury Hotel Saturday night when he heard a hissing sound and saw “something white fly across the street. I saw two spots of phosphorus, the eyes of the beast. There was a white cloud, like steam escaping from an engine… it moved as fast as an auto.”

Later that night (2 A.M. to be exact) John McOwen was awakened by the sound of his crying daughter. When he went to her room, he heard a strange noise coming from outside. He looked outside and saw a creature that “looked something like an eagle, and it hopped along the tow-path.”

Another Bristol resident, Officer James Sackville, saw the Jersey Devil after McOwen. As he was walking towards Buckley Street, he heard dogs barking at something. When he turned, he saw the creature. He said it was winged, hopped like a bird, had the features of some peculiar animal, and had a horrible scream.

Sackville ran towards the creature and fired at it. The Devil started to retreat, flying close to the ground, but then shot upwards and out of sight.

The Postmaster of Bristol, E.W. Minster, saw the Jersey Devil at about the same time as Sackville. He had gotten out of bed around two in the morning, unable to sleep. When he was in the bathroom washing his head with cold water to cure his insomnia, he heard an "eerie, almost supernatural sound" coming from the creek outside.

He looked outside and saw an amazing sight. The creature "appeared to be a large crane, but was emitting a glow like a fire-fly. Its head resembled that of a ram, with curled horns. It had a long, thin neck that was thrust forward in flight. It had long, thin wings and short legs; the front legs were shorter than the hind. Its cry started high but ended low and hoarse."

The following morning, other Bristol residents found their yards covered in strange hoof-prints.
The Jersey Devil then proceeded to leave
Pennsylvania and returned to his home state of New Jersey. The creature was seen next in Burlington, which seems to have been the center of his "terror zone" for the week. Joseph W. Lowden and his family heard a noise "like some heavy body trampling through the snow in the yard" Sunday night. The Jersey Devil seems to have been prowling around on the ground that day, because tracks were found by Clarence B. Williams and Charles Stupenazy near White City. They also found tracks the following day.
Several other people also found tracks on Sunday, and one woman declared "It's a two-legged cow with wings."
When the Lowdens went into their backyard Monday morning, they also found tracks. They also found snow packed down by their garbage can, which had been raided.
At that point, panic gripped the town. Doors and windows were locked and barricaded, and people refused to leave their homes. Some people claimed to

have seen the “flying death”, but many did not give out names for fear of ridicule, which, sadly, is seen in way too many cryptid cases. Many more of the mysterious footprints were also found. No one could figure out what made the tracks, and they seemed to defy all explanations. They climbed trees, hopped over fences, disappeared in the middle of the street, and were found in many inaccessible places. Some of the tracks were as large as the hooves of a horse, but others were only three inches, and some were even smaller.

After the news of the sightings and track findings got out, residents from rural communities started reporting encounters. A hunting party was formed in Jacksonville, but dogs refused to follow the Devil’s tracks. Farmers set out steel traps in hopes of catching the creature. No one ever did. Some reports, however, say that the hunters were the ones caught in the traps!

At 2:30 A.M. on Tuesday, January 19, 1909, Mr. and Mrs. Nelson Evans watched the Jersey Devil for ten minutes as it sat on top of their shed. This is their description:

“It was about three and a half feet high, with a head like a collie dog and a face like a horse. It had a long neck (about 2 feet long), and its back feet were like those of a crane, and ended in horse hooves. It walked on its back legs and

held up its two short front legs that had paws on them. It didn’t use the front legs the whole time we watched.”

Mr. Evans opened up a window and yelled “shoo!” The creature then turned, barked at him, and flew away. Mrs. Evans’ story was the same as her husband’s, but she said the creature’s wings made a *s-zzz s-zzz s-zzz* sound as it

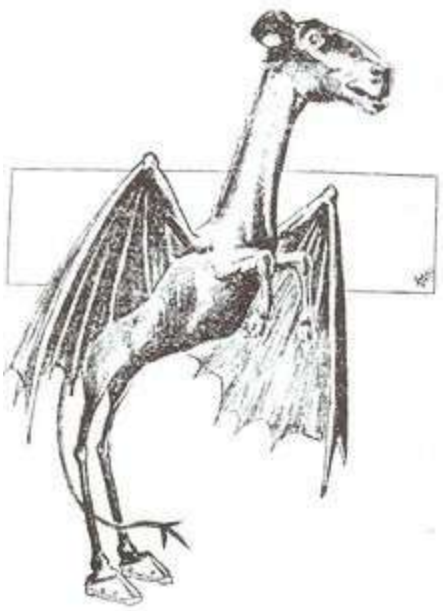
flew.Hank White and Tom Hamilton organised another

Jersey Devil hunt near Gloucester. They trailed the creature for twenty miles, following a trail that hopped five-foot fences and squeezed through areas eight inches wide. White said the creature was an “air hoss” (which he said he also had in his home state of Georgia) and he wouldn’t venture outside without a gun.

More tracks were found by the daughter of William Pine in Camden. Pine and a few others examined the tracks and said they looked like a donkey's, but whatever made them walked on two legs. One side of prints were larger than the other, leading Pine and the others to believe whatever made them was deformed. Other tracks were also found near the same area.

Another resident in the city actually saw the Jersey Devil, describing it as "something like a possum, but the size of a dog." It then "Made a shrill bark and flew off into the air." Another report from Swedesboro said the Jersey Devil had antlers, and a report from Glassboro described him as "three toed and dog-like."

A policeman saw the Devil in Burlington early Wednesday morning (January 20, 1909). He said it had no teeth and eyes "like blazing coals." John Pursell saw the creature that same morning in Pemberton. "Never saw anything like that before." He said.



LEFT: Jersey Devil from the *Philadelphia Evening Bulletin*, January 1909

Two groups of people hunted the Jersey Devil in Haddonfield, New Jersey, on Wednesday. Both found tracks, but they always ended suddenly, like the creature had taken off into the air.

A posse searching for the creature saw it near Collingswood, but caught no

more than a fleeting glimpse.

John Smith saw the Jersey Devil near Mount Carmel Cemetery, which is located near Moorestown. He chased the creature until it disappeared into a gravel pit.

George Snyder then saw the creature while fishing. He said it was three feet tall, had long black hair, arms and hands like a monkey, a dog face, hooves, and a foot long

tail. Late Wednesday night, Edward Davis saw the creature
while operating a trolley car. He said “It looked like a winged kangaroo with a long neck.”

More tracks were found in Riverside, NJ, surrounding chicken coops, buildings, and outhouses. Joseph Mans found tracks surrounding the body of his dead puppy. He attributed the death to enemies, saying they had worn fake horse hooves on the bottoms of their shoes. Tracks were found again after that, and casts were made.

Sightings of the Jersey Devil continued to spread. The creature was being seen in Delaware, Maryland, and even as far away as California and Canada!

The Black Hawk Social Club was having a meeting in Camden, New Jersey on Thursday, January 21, 1909. At about 1 A.M., a man named Mr. Rouh was distracted by a sound coming from the back window of the building they were in. He turned to see a horrible looking creature looking in at him. The rest of the group panicked and fled. Mr. Rouh grabbed a club in a desperate attempt at selfdefense, and the creature flew off, emitting “a bloodcurdling sound.”

The Public Service Railway Trolley heading towards Camden at 2 A.M. also had a run in with the Jersey Devil. As the trolley passed Hudson Heights, one passenger cried “There’s that thing! Take it away!” The passengers crowded to the windows to get a glimpse of the creature, which, by that time, was becoming well known in New Jersey and the surrounding states.

The trolley went for about two hundred yards and stopped to pick up a

passenger. When it stopped, the creature (which was flying) circled above it, “Hissing violently.” It then flew away.

The conductor of the trolley, Lewis Boeger, described the creature in this way:

“It’s general appearance resembled a kangaroo… it had a long neck and from what glimpse I got of the head its features are hideous. It had wings of a fairly good size that, of course, in the darkness looked black. Its legs were long, and somewhat slender, and were held in the position a swan

holds its legs while flying. I tried to get a good look at the feet to see what shape they were but the darkness was too great. It looked to be about four feet high.”

After that scare, the Devil went north to Trenton. As William Cromley was returning home in the early morning, he saw a “beast about the size of an average dog, with a head like a German shepherd. It had large, glowing eyes. It tucked its feet, hissed, spread its wings, and departed.” Cromley said the beast was also covered in fur and feathers.

Another person in Trenton also saw the Jersey Devil around that same time. E. P. Weeden was awakened from his sleep by noises coming from outside. Something was trying to open his door! He opened up his second floor window, and heard the sound of wings. He also saw strange footprints in the snow on his roof.

More footprints were found on Mrs. William Batten’s windowsill. Mrs. Batten became very frightened and barricaded herself in her house, saying she would not leave until she was certain the Jersey Devil had gone.

More tracks were found, and trolleys now had armed drivers. Many chickens were found dead on Thursday, some having no signs of being attacked. Many farmers thought the Jersey Devil had choked or scared the chickens to death, and they wanted *it* dead.

Mrs. Michael Ryan was the next person to see the Jersey Devil. She heard a noise next to her house at sixthirty A.M., and looked out of her window to

see something with “a peculiar shaped body, long bird-like legs, and a horse’s head.” It had short wings and it looked like it was about to leap, possibly to get air born so it could fly away.

Mrs. Ryan’s son, Edward, went outside to see if the creature was still there after his mother told him about what she had seen. He did not find the Devil, but did find strange footprints.

Daniel Flynn was walking along Chester Pike in Leiperville, Pennsylvania, when he saw a creature that was six feet tall and had skin like an alligator. It stood on its hind legs and “ran faster than an automobile.” Flynn did not say anything about wings, so who knows if it was the Jersey Devil. What he describes almost sounds like a Lizard Man, like the one seen in Scape Ore Swamp discussed earlier in this chapter.

The Jersey Devil was seen by two residents of Mount Holly, New Jersey later that day. One witness said the creature looked like a crane, but the other said the creature he saw had “a horse head, long hind legs with claws, and bat wings.”

A crane - could this bird have been mistaken for the Jersey Devil?

Later, Councilman R. L. Campbell from Clayton, NJ, announced the death of the Jersey Devil. His announcement was told because of the account of William Wasso. Wasso said he had seen the Jersey Devil near the electric railway located between Clayton and Newfield. He said the Devil had gone to sniff the railway, and when its long, slimy tail touched the railway, there was a huge explosion. The railway had been melted for twenty feet on each side. Wasso saw no signs of the Devil after the explosion, and figured it had been obliterated.

Another man said he had shot the Jersey Devil that week, but neither of these reports seem true, because the Devil was still alive. Mrs. J. H. White went out into her backyard around 4 in the afternoon and saw the creature in the corner of the yard. She was curious as to what it was, and she moved towards it. When she did that, the creature stood to its full height (6 feet). She could see it had alligator skin, and it was shooting flames out of its mouth!

Mrs. White screamed until her body collapsed. Her husband ran outside and saw the creature. He grabbed a clothes prop and ran towards the creature, and it departed. At about the same time, a motorman reported almost running over a fire-breathing creature near Washington

Avenue. He did not know of the Whites' encounter.

Later that day, the Jersey Devil was pelted with rocks, broke up a social club meeting, was hunted by a posse, and was later pelted with sticks and a fire hose after appearing on the fire department.

At 7 o'clock that night, the Jersey Devil attacked a dog in Camden, NJ. Mrs. Mary Sorbinski heard noises outside and saw her pet in the "vice-like grip of a horrible monster." She grabbed a broom and rushed outside, causing the Devil to drop her dog and leave. Mrs. Sorbinski carried her wounded pet into the house and began screaming. Neighbors rushed over. Police came later, when a crowd of over 100 people had gathered at the house. While the crowd was at the house, they heard screams coming from a hill nearby. Police rushed to the area and "emptied their revolvers" at whatever was making the sound.

The Jersey Devil continued to be seen on Friday. A couple heard something with hooves walking on their roof at 2 A.M. Two hours later, Louis Strehr, a Camden policeman, saw what he called a "jabberwock." He said it had the head and body of a kangaroo, antlers of a deer, and bat wings.

By daybreak Friday, news of the events the day before caused people to stay in their homes. Schools and factories were closed. Theaters cancelled performances.

The Jersey Devil was supposedly captured in a barn later in the day, but by

the time the barn was searched the creature was gone.

The creature had apparently gone south, and a man in Salem named Jacob Henderson saw it that night. He said it had “wings and a tail.” A bulldog was later able to drive the Devil out of a yard.

Reports of the Jersey Devil then stopped, until February, that is. Late that month, Leslie Garrison saw a “strange and very large and peculiar bird” flying above some trees. He said it had legs and looked almost like a man. He figured it was the “flying devil” everyone else had talked about.

The most famous era of Jersey Devil sightings was now over. The sightings did not stop, however, and have continued to this day.

Reports of the creature surfaced many times in the 1930s and the years before. In the 1960s, mysterious screams were heard.

In 1977, Jonathan Lackey and his friend Bill saw a creature that had a body like a doberman, four thin legs, feathered wings, and a prehensile tail. It also had pointy ears, “like batman.”

As the two looked at the creature, it soared away over a hill. The creature the boys saw does not really sound like other descriptions of the Jersey Devil, but more like a griffin.

RIGHT: A griffin

The Jersey Devil, like most Cryptids, has been the focus of episodes of quite

a few TV shows, including *The X-Files*, *Lost Tapes*, *MonsterQuest*, and *The Monster Project.* It also has a game named after it (though the main character in the game looks more like a bat than the Jersey Devil) and a hockey team.

ABOVE: The Jersey Devil on *MonsterQuest*
BELOW: Jersey Devil game
BELOW RIGHT: New Jersey Devils hockey team logo

6 Out-of-Place Creatures

There are some "monsters" seen in the United States that are not really anything strange. All these creatures are known to science, but are seen living where they should not. These creatures, like other Cryptids, have been seen for hundreds of years. This chapter is all about them.

Alien Big Cats

Many people probably read the words above and have extraterrestrials come to mind, but the "alien" of that name does not mean something that came from another planet. Alien Big Cats, or ABCs, are normal, large cats, like panthers, for instance, living someplace they should not. Cats like these are see all over the United States, and do not just include things like Eastern Panthers- people also report seeing lions, tigers, leopards, etc. living in the wild in the

U.S. One famous and early report of mystery cats in the

United States occurred in 1917. A large, fearsome cat nicknamed "Nellie the Lion" terrorized the Decatur, Illinois area that year. The first report came after Nellie or one of her companions (some reports say there were two or three

cats) attacked Thomas Gullet while he was working in the garden. Gullet only suffered a few minor wounds, but people still started to panic.

Did a lioness terrorize the Decatur, Illinois area in 1917?

The attack on Guller sparked the press' interest in the Nellie story, but the first incidents had occurred a few days earlier. The attack led to a 300 person hunt in the woods on July 15. While the hunters were out, the cat appeared a quarter mile away. A woman, Mrs. Shaw, saw what she described as an "African Lioness."

On July 17, five-inch tracks were found near Decatur. Two boys saw Nellie later that day near the Sangamon River, which is east of Decatur.

Panic had taken over. Now, when people went outside and saw a collie, the dog turned into a lion. One farmer even shot an approaching car because he had mistaken the headlights for shining lion eyes. The newspapers had fun with these stories, and called all the other reports jokes.

All that soon changed, however, when Nellie attacked again. Chester Osborn, Earl Hill, and their wives were driving near Decatur when the attack occurred. The cat had lunged at their car as they drove by at 10:30 PM on July 29, 1917. The men, who were sitting up front, saw the cat hiding in the weeds beside the road. It leaped 20 feet and slammed into the side of the car. The cat then fell onto the road, probably knocking itself out as it hit the car.

The witnesses sped to Decatur and told police what had happened. They went back to the area, and Nellie was still there. The cat soon disappeared over an embankment, however, and they were unable to spot it again.

On July 31, James Rutherford saw the cat as he was driving a hay wagon past a gravel pit. He described it as a "large, yellow, long haired beast." The cat disappeared towards a creek. Later search parties found a few tracks, but no lion. The prints had claw marks on them, which is odd, because cheetahs are the only cats that usually leave claw marks. Lions usually do not.

Soon after that encounter, Nellie sightings stopped. Other encounters have taken place, though, all over the United States.

Some of the cats seen are not at all strange, but are just in the wrong area. Bobcats were not supposed to be living in Ohio after 1850. They still seem to be in the state, however, because people still see them. A bobcat was caught on film by Julie Morgan from Boston Heights on September 19, 2010.

Another bobcat was found dead in Knox County, OH, in 2013. The cat was identified after it was struck by a vehicle on U.S. 36 between Mount Liberty and Mount Vernon. “It’s the first roadkill bobcat around here in probably 40 years.” Mike Miller, Ohio Department of Natural Resources Division of Wildlife officer said. “In my twenty years here, we’ve had two confirmed sightings in Knox County and they’ve both been in the northeast part of the state.”

The cat was found by a homeowner in the area who was able to move it to where vultures wouldn’t be able to get at the body. Miller said there had been unconfirmed calls of bobcat sightings in the area before the body was found, and people had also been hearing the cats.

Ohio also ranked number ten on the Eastern Puma Research Network list of top states for eastern panther Research Network list of top states for eastern panther 2004), 135 came from Ohio. 118 of the cases occurred between 1983 and 2000.

Some reports of eastern panthers in Ohio have also mentioned Bigfoot. The reader may remember the August 21, 1978 report of a Bigfoot in Minerva, OH (see page 18). That Bigfoot was seen protecting two of the mysterious

cats. Another report came from Salem in April of 1968.

Alice Allison saw a strange object floating in the sky. The object resembled a black wingless airplane. Within a day of that occurrence, she and other family members saw a cougar prowling around their property. Sometimes they even saw it lying in their driveway! The cat left 3-inch paw prints and left six-inch scratches on a nearby tree. They heard it snarling outside Alice’s daughter’s bedroom window after dark. Just like in the Minerva case, the Allisons also reported seeing a strange man-like figure in the woods. Alice’s son Bruce saw the creature running and found a place where he thought it had slept. He also blamed it for the disappearance of his cat.

On December 12, 1967, Henry Madrid saw a black panther while installing a fence around the Ventura County sewer plant in California. He kept an eye on the panther with fellow workers while the sheriff was called. The sheriffs went to the cat’s location as soon as they arrived. They chased the cat

towards what appeared to be a flat field, but the field was really a crust over an area of sludge. The car got stuck, and by the time a tow truck arrived, the cat was gone.

Kenneth French and his wife saw the cat soon after that, on January 9, 1968. Kenneth watched the cat while his wife went to phone the sheriff. When she returned, the cat was gone. “It’s pretty embarrassing to have people think you go around seeing black panthers!” Mrs. French said. “Whatever kind of black cat that was, it was bad luck.”

The black panther in California had also trapped a man on a 600 foot cliff on December 23 of the previous year. He had gone hunting for the panther, and it took rescuers four hours to get him down.

Panthers are not the only out of place cats in the United States. What was described as an “African Lion”(like Nellie) was seen in California in 1979. On November 10 of that year, at 5:27 P.M., Fremont residents reported to police that there was a large male lion roaming the area. One man said he had heard it roaring.

At 6:28 several people saw the lion near Alvarado Boulevard and Whitehead lane. A huge hunt was organized. More than forty people, including police, firefighters, and animal control officers searched for the cat.

A male lion. One of these cats was hunted in California on November 10, 1979

Around 9 P.M. that night, police officer William Fontes confronted the cat under a freeway overpass. He shined his flashlight onto the lion’s face. The cat growled at him, but did not attack. A few days later, a local owner of a 40-pound chow-chow puppy came forward saying that his dog was the “Lion.” Fontes denied that claim, saying that a puppy “in no way resembled

the 300 to 400 pound animal" he had run into under the overpass.

The hunt was called off at around 10 PM because of darkness. The lion was not spotted again.
There was one lion that lived in North America, *Panthera atrox*, but it lived during the Pleistocene epoch, about .34 million to 11,000 years ago. *P. atrox* was larger than the African Lions of today, and weighed about 520 pounds. That's one big cat!

Reconstruction of *Panthera atrox*, the American Lion

P. atrox skull

Nellie, the mystery cat seen near Decatur, Illinois in 1917, and described as a lioness, had a male lion with her. Nellie seems to have been the more aggressive of the two, as she attacked a few people.

A "panther" was seen on March 1, 1941, and the witnesses said the hair on its neck made it "appear thicker than the head." It seems that this cat was really a maned lion.

Four adults and two children fishing in the Elkhorn Falls, Indiana region on August 5, 1948, reported that a "lion with a long tail" had leaped at their car and then plowed through a fence.

Two days later, two boys saw strange animals near their barnyard in Richmond, Indiana. One of the boys raised his rifle and fired at the cats, which jumped a gate and disappeared. They said that one of the cats looked like a lion, and that the other looked like a black panther. Some think they saw a male and a female *P. atrox.*

The next day, the two cats were seen again. The morning after that, they were spotted by several people in Wayne County. The cats then moved into Ohio.

More lions were seen in the following years. An M. McDonald saw a cat "exactly like an African Lion" on October 20, 1964.

In May 1979, the Delaware (Ohio) County Sheriff Bill Lavery began to get calls from frightened residents who had spotted a "cougar." The cat had also killed some sheep in Delaware, and had been spotted in Sunbury. The cat's footprints were later discovered.

Another cougar was seen in Ohio on September 21, 2003. The police had gotten several reports of the cat before it met its doom after it attacked Brian Conway's dog. The farmer saw the cat, which lunged at him, causing him to shoot it in self-defense. When the body was looked at, it was discovered that the cat had been declawed, meaning it had escaped, or worse, had been let loose by some unknown owner.

In July 2004, residents of Zanesville met a wild cougar. The animal mauled a pony, and was later spotted by a retired police officer who said "it looked like a mountain lion."

The cat was seen a few more times in the coming months, but then vanished, like most phantom panthers do.
Leopards have also been seen in Ohio in 1877, 1895, and 1906. Tigers joined the list in 1994, when Debbie Couch saw a "large orange animal" run across State Route 471, and again in 2001.
What do we make of the reports of big cats? It is a scientific fact that these cats are real, but how did they get into the United States? Some of the cats do live here, like panthers, but they are supposed to be extinct on the eastern half of the country. The others (lions, tigers, leopards,) don't live here. It is possible that they escaped from a circus (a common explanation for lots of cryptids) or were released by an exotic pet owner. Perhaps the "African Lions" being seen are really surviving *Panthera atrox,* the American Lion?
The big mystery cats still continue to be seen. Two of the best books listing ABC reports I have read are Loren Coleman's *Mysterious America* and Michael Newton's *Strange Ohio Monsters.*

Kangaroos on the Loose!

Everyone knows what a kangaroo is. You'd think the only

place to see them in the US would be zoos, but that would be wrong. Just like the Alien Big Cats, kangaroos are seen hop'n all over the states.

One kangaroo caused quite a disturbance in Chicago in 1974. It was October 18th, 3:30 A.M. A few hours earlier, Leonard Ciagi and Michael Byrne of the Chicago Police Force had responded to a call from a man claiming to have seen a kangaroo, on his porch, of all places. They laughed the report off, until they found the rouge marsupial and cornered it in an alley.

The kangaroo they had cornered was about five feet tall, and was growling at them. Byrne approached the animal in an attempt to handcuff it, and later said that the animal suddenly "started to scream" and "get vicious." The kangaroo then kicked Byrne in the legs. The officers retaliated. "We got in a few good punches to the head and he must have felt it." Ciagi said.

The officers did not have their nightsticks or any other weapons to fight the raging animal, so they backed off. When other officers arrived, the kangaroo jumped over a fence and bolted down the street.

An earlier report of a phantom kangaroo occurred near South Pittsburg, Tennessee over a five-day period in 1934. The "kangaroo-like beast" was seen by several people and killed several animals, which included ducks, geese, a German Shepherd, and other dogs. The kangaroo ate portions of some of the animals it killed. This is very odd, because kangaroos are usually unaggressive, and they are vegetarian. The kangaroos seen in America, however, seem very aggressive. In his book *Monster Spotter's Guide to North America*, Scott Francis describes phantom kangaroos in this way:

Characteristics: *Resemble a kangaroo or wallaby, but seem to be more ferocious*
Precautions: *These animals are incredibly aggressive and capable of hopping at great speeds.*

In 1900, Amanda Sutts, who was ten at the time, saw an animal about the size of a calf in New Jersey. She guessed it weighed about 150 pounds. It was the sound it made that really scared her, though. She said "It sounded like a woman screaming." Some say this is a report of the Jersey Devil (see previous chapter), but others say it is a phantom kangaroo report. Mrs. Sutts also found strange tracks around the family barn several times. The tracks were eight to ten feet apart and always led to a cedar swamp by the farm.

In 1949, Louis Staub encountered a kangaroo while driving a greyhound bus near Grove City, Ohio. He described it as "about 5 ½ feet tall, hairy, and brownish in color." The animal leaped over a barbed wire fence and disappeared. "It resembled a kangaroo, but appeared to jump on all fours. I'm certain it was not a deer." Staub said.

Charles Wetzel saw a strange animal chasing some dogs near Grand Island, Nebraska, on July 28, 1958. He thought the animal was a deer at first, but when he got within ten feet of it, he said it looked like a kangaroo. He said it jumped in ten-foot leaps, was about six feet tall, and was brown in color. It had long hind legs and short forelegs. The forelegs barely touched the ground as it jumped. The kangaroo stayed around Wetzel's house for several minutes and then disappeared into an alfalfa field.

Other sightings of kangaroos were reported in Nebraska that year.
From 1957 to 1967, kangaroos were seen around the woods in Coon Rapids, Minnesota. At one time, two boys saw two kangaroos hopping through the woods. The animals came out of some trees, moved across a clearing, and then disappeared in more trees. The boys were certain that the animals they saw were kangaroos.
Later, Linda Brodie saw what she was certain was a kangaroo. That occurred in 1958. Two other people also saw a creature in 1958 that they described as a "big rabbit." Mr. and Mrs. Willard L. Hays saw two "oversized bunnies" on April 24, 1967.
During the time of the Minnesota sightings, kangaroos were also being seen

in Kansas. Another was encountered in Washington in 1967. A man traveling along Ohio Route 63 told the Ohio State Patrol that he had seen a kangaroo at 2:30 a.m. in 1968. A patrolman went to check out the area, and saw the animal hop across the road. “It sure looked like a kangaroo to me.” He said. A “monster that looks like a huge monkey and hops like a kangaroo” was seen in Oklahoma in 1975. Anthony and Steve Ketchum and their friend Allen Herrin saw an animal “taller than a man, with hair all over it. It looked like a big monkey and made a growling noise. It then hopped towards us, like a kangaroo.”

The creature in that report almost sounds like another American monster called the “Devil Monkey.” These creatures are described as being three to five feet tall, with grey fur, and long tails. They also have short front limbs and long back limbs, like a kangaroo. They are carnivorous and very aggressive. Some reports say the Devil Monkeys covered a distance of 75 feet in a few hops. They are known to attack dogs and livestock and have even tried to break into homes.

Devil Monkey

Devil Monkeys have also been seen for many years. One encounter occurred near Mount

Vernon, Illinois, in the summer of 1941. Marsh Harpole was hunting squirrels along Gum Creek when he saw a large animal “that looked something like a baboon.” The creature jumped out of a tree and came up behind Harpole, who hit it with his barrel.

He fired a few shots into the air and the beast left. Other families in the area reported hearing screams coming from the woods at night. Hunters sometimes found strange tracks in the woods. The next year, a dog was killed on a farm near Bonnie. That caused a group of hunters with guns, nets and ropes to go hunting for the monster. They did not find the creature, and it then disappeared. On April 25, 1973, Mr. and Mrs. Henry McDaniel came home to their children who had almost been attacked by a Devil Monkey in Enfield, Illinois. The children said the "thing" had tried to get into the house by scratching at the air conditioner.

The creature returned a short time later, only to be greeted by Mr. McDaniel, a flashlight, and a .22 pistol. Mr. McDaniel fired at it four times as it hopped across the yard. It covered a distance of 50 feet in only three jumps. It then ran into the brush and out of sight. "It had three legs on it." Mr. McDaniel said. "It had pink eyes as big as flashlights. It had grey fur and was 4 ½ feet tall. When I fired the first shot, I know I hit it."

Are reports of Devil Monkeys and phantom kangaroos related? The report of a "kangaroo-like beast" from 1934 almost sounds like a Devil Monkey report. The animal in question is said to have killed several animals, and it partially ate several of them. Devil Monkeys are said to be carnivorous; kangaroos are not.

Some reports of phantom kangaroos have occurred quite recently. A kangaroo was reportedly recorded on video by two hunters in Oklahoma in 2013. The hunters posted their video on YouTube, and some speculated that the kangaroo they filmed was a pet kangaroo that had gone missing in the state the year before.

Another possible kangaroo was caught on video in North Salem, New York. This also occurred in 2013. The Ridgefield Press did a story on the sighting and posted the video on their website. The man who filmed the animal, Rich Lechner, was on his way to work at 5:30 a.m. on Route 116 when he saw it "standing directly in the middle of the road."

Some have speculated that the kangaroo filmed by Lechner is really an escaped wallaby. Some of these animals have been kept as pets in Westchester County (where North Salem is located) and some have escaped. Wallabies are nocturnal animals, so you probably would be likely to spot one

in the early morning hours.

Sewer 'Gators

Do alligators live in the sewers of New York City? This is one popular urban legend that has circulated for years. Some people say exotic pet owners got baby alligators as pets- and then released them in the sewers once they got too big to take care of. After that, the animals reportedly survived and reproduced in the sewers. The New York City officials deny that alligators live under the city.

Some people think alligators live in New York City sewers

On June 28, 1932, "swarms" of alligators were seen in the Bronx River. A three-foot specimen was found dead on the riverbank. In 1935 and 1937, live and dead gators were discovered.

One well-known sewer gator incident occurred on February 10, 1935. A group of teenage boys were shoveling snow into the sewer when they saw something moving in the water ten feet below them. They then realized it was an alligator. The boys lowered a rope down into the sewer and lassoed the animal. They managed to pull it out of the sewer, but, when the animal snapped at them, they beat it to death with their shovels.

The boys took the body to a repair shop nearby, where it was determined that the alligator weighed 125 pounds and was 7 ½ feet long. The police were notified, and came to get the body to incinerate it.

Headline from the February 10, 1935 *New York Times* describing the teenager's encounter with the sewer 'gator

ALLIGATOR FOUND IN UPTOWN SEWER

Youths Shoveling Snow Into Manhole See the Animal Churning in Icy Water.

SNARE IT AND DRAG IT OUT

Reptile Slain by Rescuers When It Gets Vicious—Whence It Came Is Mystery.

Teddy May, New York City's superintendent of sewers, began getting complaints about alligators in the city's sewers around that same time. May went down into the sewers with a flashlight and saw the gators. He had them all killed. Or maybe not. Some say May is not credible.

Other alligators were found before the 1900s. One supposedly fell from a thunderstorm on July 2, 1843. More were found in 1877. One gator was found frozen in February 1892. A 54-inch alligator was found in November of 1901. One was spotted in Massachusetts in 1922. Another was seen in Maryland in 1926.

So, do alligators hide out in sewers of United States cities? Some people say yes. Others say no. Salvatore Condoluci, one of the teenagers who roped the alligator in 1935, said in 2009: "I don't know, I really don't know" when he was asked if he thought other alligators hide below the pavement.

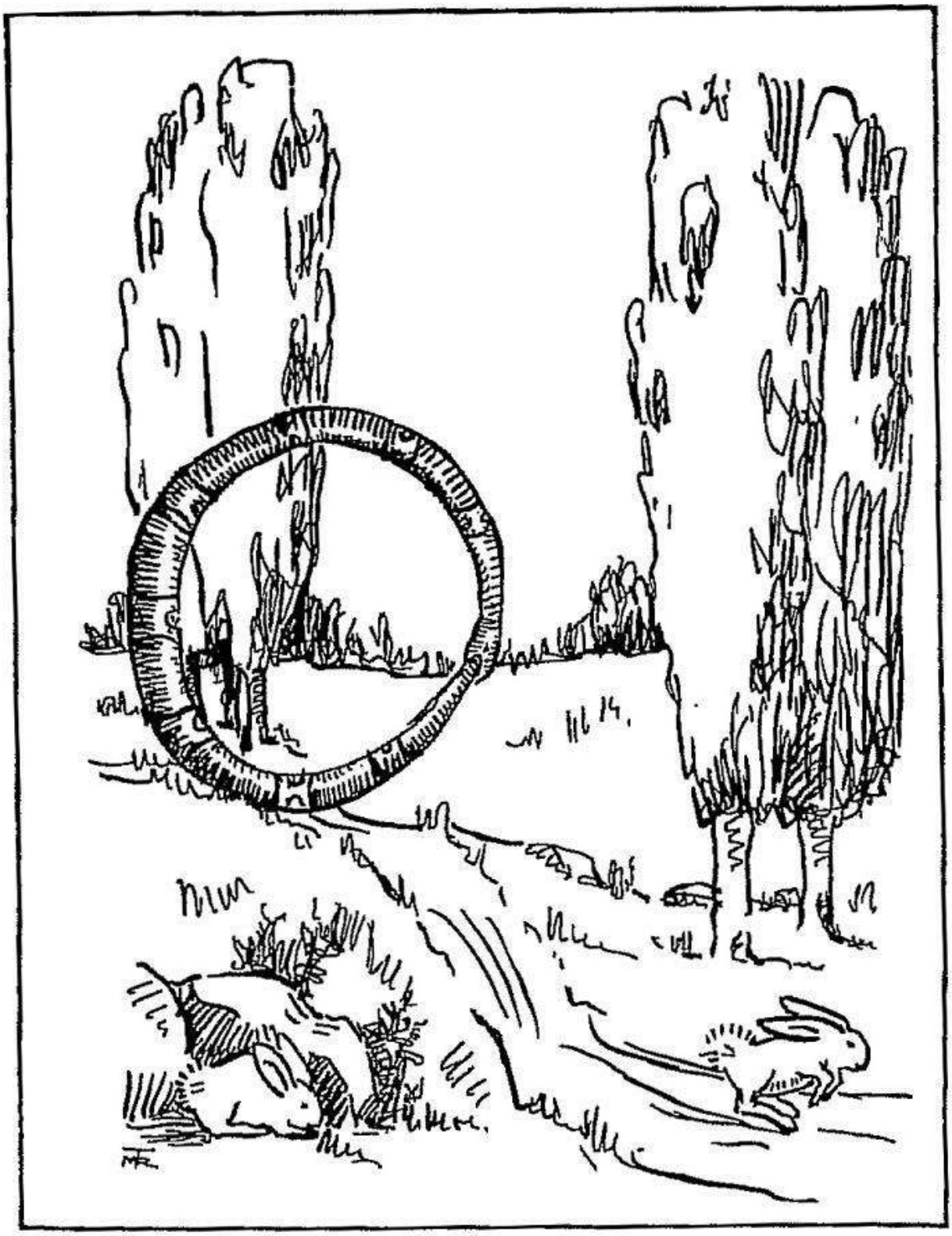
Mysterious Snakes

It was September, 1959. William Hayden from Bronx, New York, walked out into his yard to find a reptilian monster. A five-foot long black snake was slithering around in his backyard! Hayden grabbed the snake and put it in his bathtub. The next day, he found a five-foot boa constrictor outside of his apartment! A man in Virginia also had a large snake he had run over stuffed

because no one would believe his story.

Those are just three examples of encounters with mysterious (and sometimes giant) snakes in North America. Snakes like these (of many different species) are seen all over the United States. Some of the snakes are completely normal, but just out of place. Others are a little more mysterious, like the Snow Snake and Hoop Snake.

The Hoop Snake is said to live in the Southwestern United States, and is also said to live in Canada and Australia. The snake is said to grow to about 10 or 15 feet long. The venom of this snake is said to be very deadly. The strangest thing about this snake, however is how it moves. When the snake chases its prey, it grabs the end of its tail in its mouth and rolls like a tire on a car! It is said that if you jump through the center of the hoop while the snake is rolling, it can confuse it long enough for you to escape. Keep that in mind the next time you run into a Hoop Snake!



HOOP SNAKE

Hoop Snake drawing from “Fearsome Critters”

The Snow Snake is a creature said to live in the Northern United States. This snake is said to be snow white in color and, like the Hoop Snake, is extremely venomous. (Its venom is said to kill in a matter of seconds!) The snake is almost invisible in snow and thrives in a cold climate, unlike other reptiles. The best way to avoid being killed by a Snow Snake is to look for

its eyes when you are out in the snow. The eyes of the snake are pink, and are the only thing that will give it away in the snow.

Another snake of lumberjack legend is the Joint Snake. This snake is said to live in the Southern United States and is supposed to have the ability to break itself into pieces that will resemble the original snake. If a knife is used to cut the snake and then laid down by it, the knife will join up with the snake. Many think the myth surrounding this creature is probably based on legless lizards that can regenerate their tails.

A Legless Lizard

Other, known snakes are also spotted in the United States. One of these snakes, however, was not entirely normal. Randi Hanson, her sister, and two other girls were walking down a gravel road in 1983 in Wisconsin. The girls were walking towards two ponds on Randi's parent's property when she saw a giant snake only five feet ahead of her! The snake was as thick of her arms and fifteen to eighteen feet long! Despite the reptile's size, Randi was sure that it was a garter snake. Randi got nervous at this point, and jumped over the snake and ran down to the pond. When the others caught up with her, she asked them if they had seen any snakes. Not necessarily giant snakes, but just any snakes in general. They had not.

Another giant snake was killed in Lock Springs, Missouri, in 1897. It measured 16 feet long.
Yet another snake was sighted along the Cuyahoga River between Akron and Cleveland, Ohio, in 1944. The creature was first spotted on June 8th, when Clarence Mitchell saw it in his cornfield. He reported the track of the snake to be as wide as an automobile tire and said the snake was about 18 feet long. Paul and John Szalay reported the snake's track in their field two days later, and Mrs. Roy Vaughn called the fire department when the snake ate one of her chickens.
The news started carrying stories on the "Peninsula Python", as it is called, and people started wondering where it had come from. One popular theory was that the snake had escaped from a carnival truck that had crashed into a cemetery two years earlier. The carnival truck or train escapade is a popular theory for almost *any* unknown animal. That theory has been put forward for cryptids such as giant snakes, phantom kangaroos, American Lions, and even the Fouke Monster, Arkansas' Bigfoot.

A large, python-like snake was
seen in Ohio in the summer of 1944

On June 25, 1944, the snake was sighted near Kelly Hill. Hunters rushed to the area, only to realize that the report was a false alarm.

On the 27th, the snake fell out of a dead willow and frightened Mrs. Pauline Hopko and her milk cows. Bobbie Pollard and some other boys also sighted the snake at this time, but it soon disappeared when hunters arrived.

Two days later, Mrs. Ralph Griffin saw the snake rear up as high as a man. The creature (just like other
mysterious snakes, black panthers, or mysterious lions) avoided hunters yet again. It was then spotted by Mrs. Katherine Boroutick. Hunters came for the last time, but did not find the snake.

Soon, the first frost came, and hunters waited to find the frozen body of the giant snake. That never happened. The snake was never seen again.

An 8-foot long boa constrictor was run over in the Hockomock Swamp in Massachusetts in 1970. The Hockomock Swamp is located in an area in the Bay State called the “Bridgewater Triangle.” It is very common to hear reports of Bigfoot, Thunderbirds, UFOs, Giant Snakes, and other mysterious stuff in this area.

Workers in the Hockomock Swamp had a run in with a snake “as big as a stovepipe” in 1939. The snake coiled up, raised its head, and then disappeared into the swamp. Local legend says a snake like that one appears in the swamp every seven years.

Hockomock Swamp

7 Continue the Search for Cryptids

Throughout this book, I have recounted stories about many different monsters. There are many others, however, that have not been mentioned. Those include other Bigfootlike creatures, Lake Monsters, Reptile People, and flying monsters. I will now list some of them and give a little bit of information on each.

Iliamna Lake Monster: Lake Iliamna, Alaska

The monster (or monsters) in Lake Iliamna are said to look like giant fish. Some think the monsters are just sturgeon or other large fish. Indians said that these monster fish would attack canoes and eat the people in them.

Some people have said that the Iliamna Lake Monsters are a breed of freshwater shark. Like I mentioned above, most skeptics would probably say they are just sturgeon. They would have to be very large sturgeon, however, because these monsters are said to be about 30 feet long!

Gloucester Sea Serpent: Gloucester Harbor, Massachusetts

This Sea Monster was spotted many times in the summer of 1817. The sightings of the monster led the Linnean Society of New England to form a committee for the purpose of collecting information on the creature.

One day a few boys found a small snake-like animal on the beach. The snake had three humps on its back. The Linnean Society declared the creature a “baby sea serpent” and wrote an article about it. A French naturalist looked at the pictures in the Linnean Society’s article and said that the “baby sea serpent” looked like an ordinary snake with odd growths on its back. That’s exactly what it was.

The Snallygaster: Maryland

The Snallygaster is a creature similar to the Jersey Devil. Theodore Roosevelt, the 26th President of the United States, even planned on hunting the Snallygaster. He was also a Bigfoot believer.

Jack the Wild Man: Massachusetts

On September 4, 1891, two women picking blueberries in Massachusetts saw a naked man covered in hair. The creature was not like a Bigfoot- it was a Wild Man. It soon became known as Jack the Wild Man. Other witnesses later said things such as: “He was a terrible looking thing”, and “We know he was a man, but he certainly looked like one of the wild men whom we have read about.”

Hopkinsville Goblins: Hopkinsville, Kentucky

One night in 1955, two families in Kelly, Kentucky, were attacked by little men from space. Billy Ray Taylor, a friend of the Sutton family who lived on the farm where the incident took place, said he had seen a flying saucer land on their property. The others did not believe him. About an hour later, the Sutton’s dog came running back to the house and hid under the porch. Soon after, a small creature with a glowing, silver body, large eyes and ears, claws, and a wide mouth appeared at the window. The men grabbed their guns and fired at the creature.

Soon other Goblins appeared. Every time one was shot, it would roll away into the yard, only to return a short time later. The Suttons and Taylors battled the monsters for four hours until they managed to escape and go to nearby Hopkinsville.

The police went back to the residence, but found no signs of space men. They left at about 3 A.M. Soon after, the creatures were back! Gunfire was once again heard, and, luckily for the humans involved, the aliens left at around dawn.

Knobby: Cleveland County, North Carolina

Knobby is a tall, ape like creature seen in North Carolina. It is hairy, about six feet tall, and is said to weigh about 200 pounds. There were many sightings of Knobby in the 1970s, when farm animals were found dead and residents reported hearing strange howls at night. The howls were said to sound like a cross between a woman screaming and the sound of a mountain lion.

Bigfoot: Oregon

Oregon is one of the hotspots for Bigfoot reports. It ranks about number three in states for most sightings. In 2014, guests from the Western Bigfoot Society met at Cascadia State Park in Oregon for the Bigfoot Days event. Ray Crowe put together a small book for the occasion called *Bigfoot in Linn County Oregon.* Sightings in the area go back many years.

Sometime in the 1940s, Floyd Wilhelm saw a Bigfoot lying on the ground playing possum near Moose Mountain. Another sighting occurred in 2003 in Cascadia State Park. The witness, Bruce Coats, had played recordings of Bigfoot howls about 20 minutes earlier. After the witness got in bed, he heard a strange sound coming from the woods behind the camper. The sounds stopped about five minutes later.

A week later, the same witness played the same Bigfoot recording. He heard the same sounds. He also heard something he described as sounding like a landslide. Other campers reported the same sound.

The Black River Monster: Black River, New York

The Black River Monster is a snake-like creature seen in New York's Black River. The monster is said to be a dark color and has large, bulging eyes. There is one thing very different about this river monster, however, than others like those in chapter two: it is only know to appear during electrical storms!

The Murphysboro Mud Monster: Murphysboro, Illinois

This Bigfoot-like creature was first spotted in June of 1973 near the Big Muddy River in Murphysboro, Illinois. The first sighting occurred when a

couple sitting in a car saw a tall, mud covered creature emerge from the woods. Several other people saw the creature over the next couple of days.

The Mud Monster was said to have light colored hair and was seven to eight feet tall.

Oklahoma Octopus: Oklahoma

Several lakes in Oklahoma, including one called Lake Thunderbird, are thought to be home to giant octopi measuring over 20 feet long.

The Kushtakaa: Alaska

The *kushtakaa* are shape-shifters from Tlingit Indian legend that are said to be able to take the form of an otter or a man. In some stories, the *kushtakaa* are helpful, but in some they are deadly, and trick people. The people they trick then become *kushtakaas!*

Those are just a few of the many more monsters in the United States. Now, what do we make of all these reports? Some may be fake. In the process of writing this book I stumbled upon an article on doubtfulnews.com about the website Cryptozoology News. That website supposedly has stories about Cryptid encounters, but its all fake. The reader may remember the report of a pterosaur with an *80-foot wingspan* in chapter three that came from that site. There's one more hoax. There are too many of them in Cryptozoology.

Some reports, however, can't be hoaxes, and I believe that many (if not all the others in this book, except for the Hodag, of course) are true. I have had the chance to meet some of these witnesses and talk to them, and they have no reason to lie.

There are many theories put forward to explain Cryptid encounters. As I mentioned in the last chapter, the most popular theory to explain away a report of an ABC, giant snake, or phantom kangaroo is a circus train wreck. There are many different theories to explain Lake Monster sightings; the most popular is the plesiosaur theory. Skeptics, however, will usually say that

the creature the witness saw was only a log, bird, or large sturgeon.

Many skeptics say that Thunderbirds are only turkey vultures. Some Cryptozoologists and other people that have an open mind think they may be teratorns. Some say the Mothman is a visitor from space, while some say it comes from another dimension! Bigfoot may be a regular animal living on the Earth, but some think it's an alien. Some think that aliens put Bigfoots on Earth. We just don't know.

Now, I will let the reader come up with his or her own explanations. Of course, I have my own theories, but I do not know what these creatures are. No one does. We may never be able to find out what they all are, because, if we do, another monster will probably walk out of a swamp, terrorize people on an old dirt road, or be spotted flying through the night sky.

Keep an open mind, and keep an eye out for anything strange that you may run into.

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About the Author

Tyler Houck has been researching cryptids since 2009. His interest in the subject began when he read a book about Scotland's Loch Ness Monster and since then the interest has spread to all cryptozoological creatures, and anything unexplained.

In 2014 Tyler started getting involved with Bigfoot research groups, mainly the Southeastern Ohio Society for Bigfoot Investigation(SOSBI.)

He has several blogs online about cryptozoology and UFOs called Tyler's Cryptozoo
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(cryptozoology101.blogspot.com) and UFO Zone (ufozone15.blogspot.com) and is currently working on a second book. He also has an article on Chupacabras in issue 3 of Cryptid Seekers Magazine.